"Claremont and Nauck's Nightcrawler is shaping up to be another fine addition to the X-Men lineup"

—AllComic.com

NIGHTCRAWLER®

HOMECOMING

CLAREMONT NAUCK

MARVEL NOW!

VOL 1

"Nightcrawler's essence is captured purely on the pages by an author who has had years of experience with the character."
— Comicosity.com

NIGHTCRAWLER IS BACK!

Newly returned from the afterlife, Kurt Wagner is determined not to waste his new lease on life. But when someone starts hunting down his loved ones, Kurt quickly learns his return may have set these events in motion! The fight soon comes to the Jean Grey School, but torn between two worlds — his family and the X-Men — who will Nightcrawler stand by? Then, struggling to adjust to life at the Jean Grey School, Nightcrawler heads out to locate a newly manifested mutant. But little does he know that the Crimson Pirates have their own nefarious designs on the mutant! Good thing Kurt loves fighting pirates!

Collecting *Nightcrawler (2014) #1-6,*
written by Chris Claremont
and illustrated by Todd Nauck.

T+ MARVEL

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— AllComic.com

NIGHTCRAWLER®

HOMECOMING

CLAREMONT MARVEL NOW! NAUCK

VOL 1

NIGHTCRAWLER

#1

SAMNEE '13
MW

ALL-NEW MARVEL NOW!

CHRIS CLAREMONT
TODD NAUCK

001

MY NAME IS *KURT WAGNER.*

BETTER KNOWN AS *NIGHTCRAWLER.*

I FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT, ON THIS WORLD AND MANY OTHERS.

I HELPED SAVE THE *UNIVERSE.*

AND THEN I *DIED.*

BUT THAT ISN'T THE END OF THE STORY.

FATE, IT SEEMED, HAD *OTHER* PLANS...

...AND BROUGHT ME BACK TO *LIFE.*

LOGAN IS MY BEST FRIEND.

LIKE ME, BOTH *MUTANT* AND *X-MAN*, CODENAME: *WOLVERINE.*

ONE OF HIS MUTANT ABILITIES WAS A *HEALING FACTOR* THAT ALLOWED HIM TO SURVIVE ANY WOUND.

GIMME A BREAK, ELF.

NOT LONG AGO, HE *LOST* IT.

BAMF

IMPRESSIVE AS EVER, *MEIN FREUND.*

OR *THIS.*

NOPE-- THAT WON'T WORK, EITHER.

HE'S AS FAST AS EVER.

MY *TELEPORTS* ARE INSTANTANEOUS...

...YET HE'S THERE TO COUNTER MY ATTACK.

HOW MANY TIMES WE TUSSLED?

I KNOW HOW YOU THINK.

SNFF

WE ARE DUELING IN THE *DANGER ROOM*--

--BIG ENOUGH TO HOUSE A JUMBO JET, WITH TECHNOLOGY CAPABLE OF CREATING ANY REALITY IMAGINABLE.

PERHAPS NOW'S THE TIME TO UP THE GAME.

EVALUATING OUR PERFORMANCE ARE *STORM, BEAST.* AND *DR. CECELIA REYES.*

LOOK HOW KURT'S HITTING LOGAN. TOO FAST FOR US TO EVEN COUNT.

HE'S TRYING TO FIND A WEAKNESS IN WOLVERINE'S NEW ARMOR.

HE BETTER BE CAREFUL.

HE'S STARTING TO MAKE WOLVERINE *MAD.*

LOGAN IS A TEACHER NOW, *CECELIA.*

HE KNOWS HOW TO CONTROL HIMSELF.

THAT WAS BEFORE HE LOST HIS HEALING FACTOR, *STORM.*

PERHAPS WE'D BETTER--!

SNIKT

OH, *NO!*

I'VE PUSHED LOGAN TOO FAR.

LOGAN-- NO!

I DON'T PLAY GAMES, RUNT.

HIS CLAWS ARE FORGED OF *ADAMANTIUM*. THEY CAN CUT THROUGH *ANYTHING*.

AND WHEN HE UNSHEATHES THEM, HE CUTS THROUGH HIS OWN FLESH.

IN THE ABSENCE OF HIS HEALING FACTOR, THE PAIN MUST BE *EXCRUCIATING*.

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER LOGAN'S TESTING HIMSELF OR TESTING ME.

BUT I'VE ONLY JUST COME BACK TO *LIFE*...

BAM!F

I'D LIKE TO ENJOY IT A LITTLE WHILE LONGER.

LOGAN-- *STOP THIS!*

KRAKOOM

LISTEN TO HIM, WOLVERINE.

I WILL NOT WARN YOU AGAIN.

CECELIA, LOGAN REQUIRES YOUR SKILLS AS A *PHYSICIAN*.

I'M FINE, 'RO.

LET *ME* BE THE JUDGE OF THAT, MISTER.

I JUST LOST MY TEMPER.

LOOK AT YOUR *HANDS!*

THAT'S NOT RAIN DRIPPING DOWN, IT'S *BLOOD!*

I'LL BE FINE.
KEEP THIS UP, YOU'LL BE DEAD.
IT'S *MY* PROBLEM, CECE.
I'LL FIND A WAY TO HANDLE IT.
YOU NEED TO FIND A WAY TO *ACCEPT* YOUR NEW *LIMITS.*
I'M NOT USED TO SEEING LOGAN BLEED...
NOT LIKE THIS.
I REMEMBER HIM AS THE X-MEN'S ANCHOR, THE CONSTANT WE COULD ALWAYS DEPEND ON.
AND NOW HE'S MORTAL, JUST LIKE THE REST OF US.
WHATEVER *THAT* MEANS.
HOW ABOUT YOU?
I'M NOT DEAD, ORORO.
THAT PRETTY MUCH SAYS IT ALL.
THINK ABOUT THAT, MY FRIEND.
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO'S BENT THE RULES OF LIFE--
--AND DEFIED *FATE.*
THE X-MEN'S STOCK IN TRADE, PERHAPS?
YOU ARE A MAN OF FAITH--
PERHAPS LOGAN'S CUSHION, HIS HEALING, IS GONE FOR A REASON?
PERHAPS THE TIME HAS COME FOR HIM TO MAKE A CHOICE, TO TRULY DECIDE WHO AND WHAT HE IS, AND FACE THE CONSEQUENCES.
MAYBE THE SAME GOES FOR YOU?

JEAN GREY SCHOOL FOR HIGHER LEARNING.

SO MUCH HAS CHANGED SINCE I FIRST CAME TO THIS SCHOOL.

IN TRUTH, HARDLY ANY TIME HAS PASSED.

TO ME, IT FEELS LIKE A *LIFETIME.*

BACK THEN, THERE WERE BARELY A DOZEN OF US, BETWEEN THE ORIGINAL TEAM OF X-MEN...

...AND THE *NEW.*

ON OUR FIRST MISSION, WE LOST *THUNDERBIRD.*

AND THEN WE LOST *JEAN.*

IT SEEMS LIKE LIFE WITH THE X-MEN HAS ONLY ONE POSSIBLE OUTCOME.

DINGALING

ZUM TEUFEL!

THAT BELL--

DINGALINGA

--CLASS CHANGE!

HEY, LOOK--THAT'S NIGHTCRAWLER!

HE CREEPS ME OUT.

DON'T BE SO LAME, SPRITE.

MR. WAGNER! I'M SO HAPPY THAT YOU'RE BACK!

I'M MERCURY. DO YOU REMEMBER ME?

OF COURSE I REMEMBER YOU, CESSILY.

AND IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK.

THAT ALMOST SOUNDED CONVINCING, KURT.

THAT VOICE-- INSIDE MY HEAD--

--RACHEL!

IN ASTRAL FORM, ANYWAY.

HIYA, KURT.

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU.

LIKEWISE. SCUTTLEBUTT HAS IT YOU'RE JOINING US AS A TEACHER.

THAT'S STORM'S IDEA.

YOU'D DO WELL HERE--

--WATCH YOUR BACK!

YIKES!

CLEAR A PATH!

FAST MOVER COMIN' THROUGH!

NOW THAT'S SOMETHING YOU DON'T SEE EVERYDAY.

BET YOU FIGURED YOU LOOKED WEIRD.

YOU SHOULD SEE RICO WORK IN ZERO-G; KID WANTS TO BE AN ASTRONAUT.

NASA WILL LOVE HIM.

DON'T BE A POOP, HE HAS A WICKED SENSE OF HUMOR.

MEET ME BACK AT YOUR PLACE AND I'LL FILL YOU IN ON THE OTHER NEW STUDENTS?

AND I THOUGHT *WE* WERE WEIRD.

NOT EVEN CLOSE, MY FRIEND.

I LIKE WHAT YOU'VE DONE WITH THE LOFT.

JUST THE KEEPSAKES ARE MINE--

--THE DESIGN AND FURNISHING, I *OWE* TO ORORO.

BEATS LIVING IN A LIGHTHOUSE.

I DUNNO, WE HAD A GOOD TIME WITH *EXCALIBUR.*

SPEAKING OF, HAVE YOU SPOKEN TO *KITTY* LATELY?

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT SHE'S IN HIDING SOMEWHERE WITH *CYCLOPS* AND HIS OWN SCHOOL OF NEW MUTANTS.

SO MANY THINGS *CHANGED* WHILE YOU WERE GONE, KURT.

MAKES YOU WANT TO KEEP A TIGHTER HOLD ON THE THINGS THAT HAVE STAYED THE *SAME.*

GOTTA GO, PAL, I HAVE A CLASS.

I'M REALLY GLAD YOU'RE BACK.

I MISSED YOU.

AND I, YOU.

HEY, GOT ANY PLANS FOR LATER? WE CAN DO DINNER.

I'LL... LET YOU KNOW.

MANHATTAN.

WHO'S HERE?!

WHAT--?

SHOW YOURSELF OR I'LL--!

GUTEN ABEND, FRÄULEIN.

NAUCK after PAUL SMITH

KURT!

AMANDA!

I'VE MISSED YOU.

YOU'RE ALIVE!

YOU NOTICED.

MY DARLING, WE ARE SO GOING TO CELEBRATE--!

WHAT?!

SOMEONE YOU KNOW?

TOTALLY NOT!

KRAKK

FRIEND OF THE *X-MEN?*

APPARENTLY SO, SINCE HE'S SHOOTING AT *ME.*

HE'S GENERATING SOME FORM OF KINETIC PULSE BLAST.

CAN'T YOU JUST SAY "*ZAP* RAY"-- *OW!*

THE GIRL IS CLEAR--

--AND NOW SHE'S CAUGHT!

AMANDA!

GOTCHA!

BAMF

I HATE IT WHEN YOU *TELEPORT!*

SPLOSH

YOU DIDN'T USED TO.

I WAS YOUNGER THEN, I DIDN'T KNOW ANY BETTER.

STAY HERE, 'MANDA, I'LL DEAL WITH THAT BEHEMOTH.

NOT A CHANCE. HE BROKE INTO *MY* HOUSE, HE THREATENED *ME*, I'M GOING TO HELP TAKE HIM DOWN.

NO-- YOU'RE NOT!

YOU'RE THE TARGET, THAT MONSTER'S HERE FOR *YOU!*

I'M NOT ABOUT TO LET THAT HAPPEN.

BAMF

YOU CREATURES ARE AN ANNOYANCE--

--BUT YOU CANNOT DEFEAT TRIMEGA!

THAT'S MY JOB.

BY HITTING ME WITH STICKS-- HAH!

BAMF

YOU'D BE SURPRISED WHAT THE RIGHT MAN CAN ACCOMPLISH WITH THE RIGHT TOOLS.

THWAK

EVEN ARMOR HAS ITS WEAKNESSES...

...AS DOES THE MAN WHO WEARS IT.

KRANG

A FLAWED PRESUMPTION, FREAK--

--THAT WILL COST YOU YOUR LIFE!

BAMF

SKZAM

I DON'T THINK SO.

THE TRICK TO USING TELEPORTATION IN A FIGHT...

...IS TO HIT SO HARD...

...AND SO QUICKLY...

...THAT THE ADVERSARY HAS NO CHANCE TO RESPOND.

SWAK

THIS ISN'T GOOD.

I'M STRIKING WITH ALL MY STRENGTH--

--TO NO EFFECT!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

THE CEILING-- WHERE THE FORCE-BEAM STRUCK--

--IT'S COLLAPSING!

MY BAMFS--

--THEY SAVED ME!

FOOL!

KRAK

YOUR FISTS CANNOT DEFEAT ME.

THICK SKULL, THICKER ARMOR--

--HE MAY BE *RIGHT.*

THE ONLY THING YOU CAN DO IS RUN!

BAMF

BAMF

ACTUALLY, I HAD A *BETTER* IDEA!

TIME TO GO, MY FRIENDS!

I USE HIS MASS AGAINST HIM, HURLING HIM WITH ALL MY STRENGTH--

--INTO THE WALL THAT'S ALREADY BADLY CRACKED FROM THE ENERGY BOLT HE SHOT AT ME.

GRAVITY DOES THE REST.

TRUE, I KNOCKED HIM DOWN--BUT I DON'T THINK HE IS OUT.

HE'S JUST TOO BIG AND TOO TOUGH.

WORSE, THE EFFORT I MADE HAS COST ME.

I *HURT* ALL OVER.

KURT!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

THE BETTER FOR SEEING YOU, 'MANDA.

YOU LOOK-- LOVELY.

BETTER THAN MY APARTMENT, THAT'S A FACT.

WHERE'S THE ROBO-CREEP?

WE DROPPED A WALL ON HIM--

--BUT I DIDN'T THINK THAT WOULD KEEP HIM DOWN SO LONG.

CHEERFUL.

REALISTIC.

YOU'VE NO IDEA WHY HE CAME AFTER YOU?

MY POWERS AND SKILLS ARE BASED ON SORCERY, YOU KNOW THAT.

THIS GUY WAS ALL HIGH-TECH.

WHAT HAVE I TO DO WITH THAT?

UNLESS-- SOMEONE WANTED TO ATTACK FROM A PERSPECTIVE YOU COULDN'T SEE COMING...

...AND AGAINST WHICH YOU HAD NO DEFENSE.

NOTHING-- HE'S GONE.

HE MUST POSSESS A CAPABILITY TO TELEPORT.

BUT WHERE'D HE GO--

--AND HOW DO WE RESPOND?

I'VE NO ANSWER FOR THE FIRST, KURT--

--BUT IF THIS CREEP WAS AFTER ME, PERHAPS I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE IN *DANGER.*

I WANT TO CHECK ON MY MOTHER, *MARGALI*, TO MAKE SURE SHE'S *SAFE.*

I THINK IT'S TIME TO CALL IN THE X-MEN.

NO.

DON'T GIVE ME THAT LOOK, ELF. WE HAVE A HISTORY, REMEMBER?

IF THIS IS FAMILY BUSINESS, THEN *FAMILY* SHOULD DEAL WITH IT.

QUESTION IS, HOW D'YOU FEEL ABOUT THAT?

WHERE YOU GO, 'MANDA--

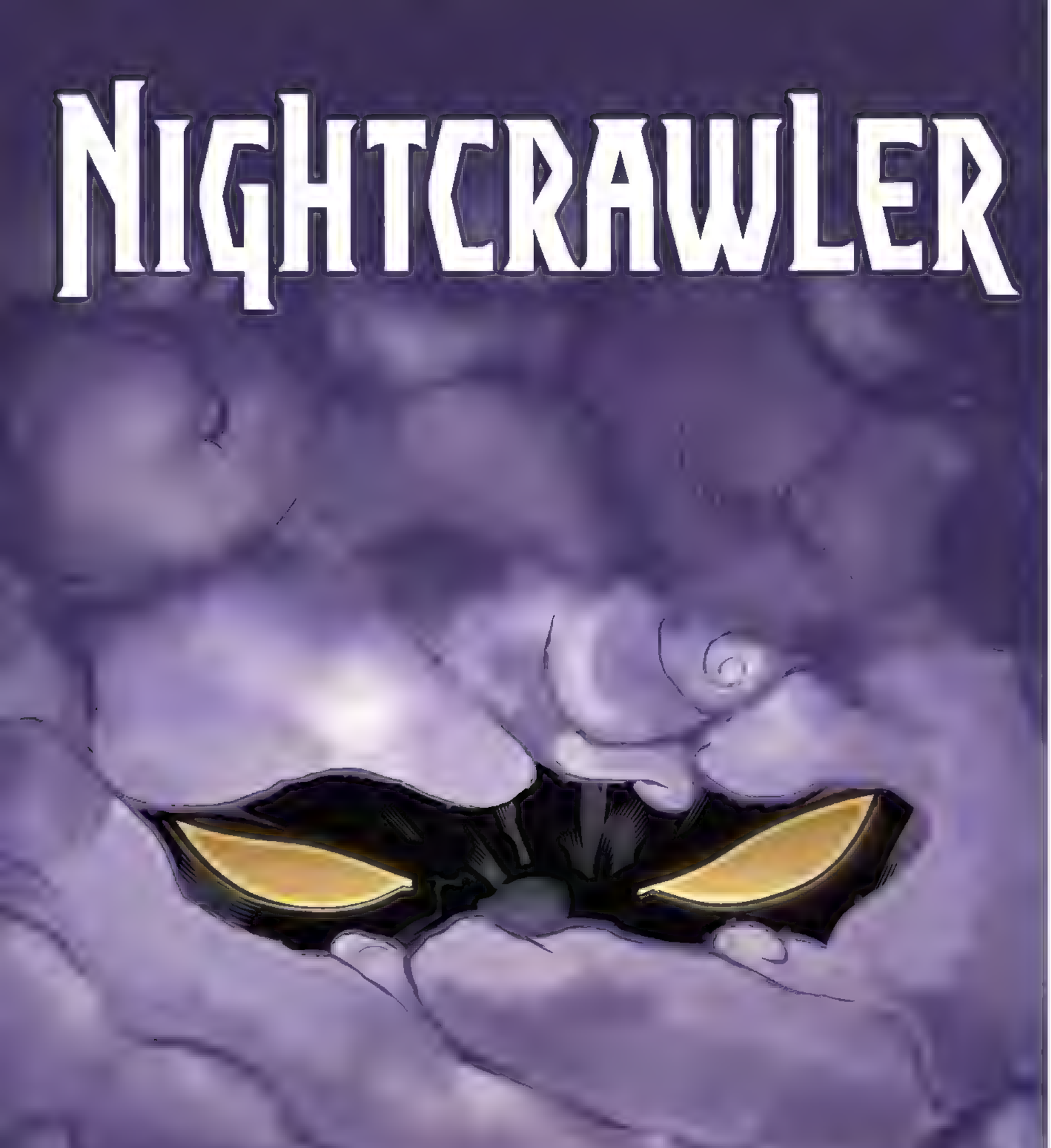
--SO DO I.

RACING ACROSS THE GLOBE TO *SAVE THE DAY* ONCE AGAIN? IT'S AS THEY SAY:

SOME THINGS *NEVER* CHANGE!

NEXT: CAN WE GO HOME AGAIN?

NIGHTCRAWLER



CHRIS CLAREMONT
WRITER

TODD NAUCK
ARTIST

RACHELLE ROSENBERG
COLOR ARTIST

VC'S CORY PETIT
LETTERER

CHRIS SAMNEE WITH MATTHEW WILSON
COVER ARTISTS

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VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

XANDER JAROWEY
ASSISTANT EDITOR

DANIEL KETCHUM
EDITOR

MIKE MARTS
X-MEN GROUP EDITOR

AXEL ALONSO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

JOE QUESADA
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

ALAN FINE
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

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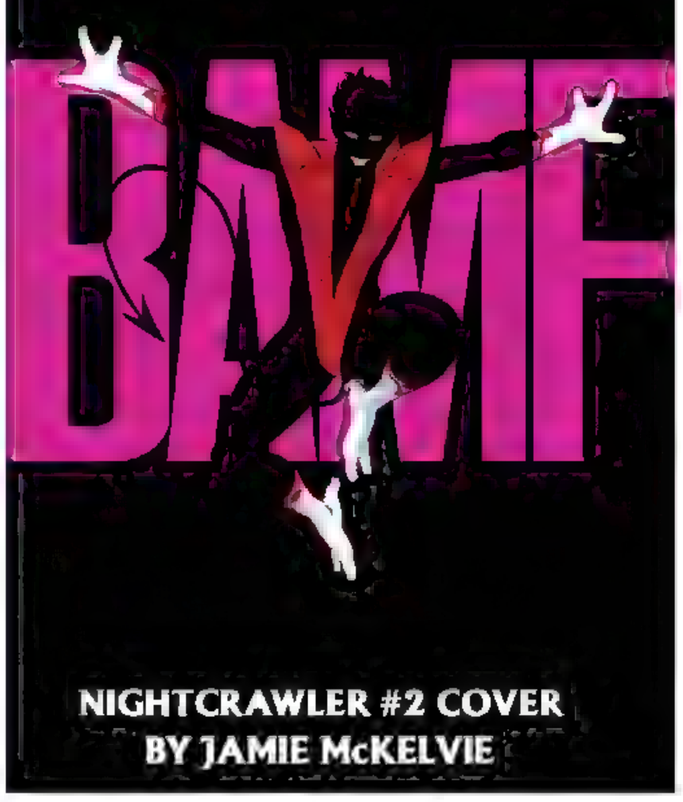
X-MEN TITLES ON SALE

- ☐ **ALL-NEW X-MEN #25 & #26**
  The 25th Anniversary Double-Sized Jam Special! Then, the Trial is over. Now what?
- ☐ **ALL-NEW X-FACTOR #6**
  What is Warlock doing with the Magus? And what has Doug been up to?
- ☐ **AMAZING X-MEN #6**
  Nightcrawler's welcome home party! Family: Always ruining special occasions.
- ☐ **DEADPOOL #27**
  The day has finally arrived… Deadpool is getting MARRIED in this ENORMOUSLY OVERSIZED ISSUE!
- ☐ **DEADPOOL VS. CARNAGE #1 & #2**
  Two red-suited madmen for the price of one! That's right—good crazy vs. bad crazy, once and for all!
- ☐ **NIGHTCRAWLER #1**
  Back in the land of the living, Nightcrawler takes some time to visit an old friend. And fisticuffs ensue!
- ☐ **MAGNETO #2**
  Human-Sentinel hybrids are on the loose, and Magneto aims to put an end to them!
- ☐ **ORIGIN II #5**
  As Creed plots something Sinister, can Logan regain his humanity? The tale of Logan's beginning comes to a close!
- ☐ **SAVAGE WOLVERINE #17**
  Logan stands between an innocent family and a corrupt time in the final chapter of WRATH.
- ☐ **UNCANNY X-MEN #20**
  Cyclops has had enough of S.H.I.E.L.D. attacking his people. And it's about time he let them know.
- ☐ **WOLVERINE #4 & #5**
  Find out why Logan left the Jean Grey School, as he faces his most dire threat yet--with no healing factor to protect him.
- ☐ **WOLVERINE & THE X-MEN #3**
  Who is the Phoenix Corporation and what do they want with Quentin Quire?
- ☐ **X-FORCE #3 & #4**
  Tracking down Volga, the team finds a surprise on a jungle excursion. Then, a trip to the city of love!
- ☐ **X-MEN #13**
  Jubilee is haunted by Shogo's past…or is it his future?!

NEXT ISSUE



NIGHTCRAWLER #2 COVER
BY JAMIE McKELVIE

NIGHTCRAWLER

ALL-NEW MARVEL NOW!

CLAREMONT
NAUCK
ROSENBERG

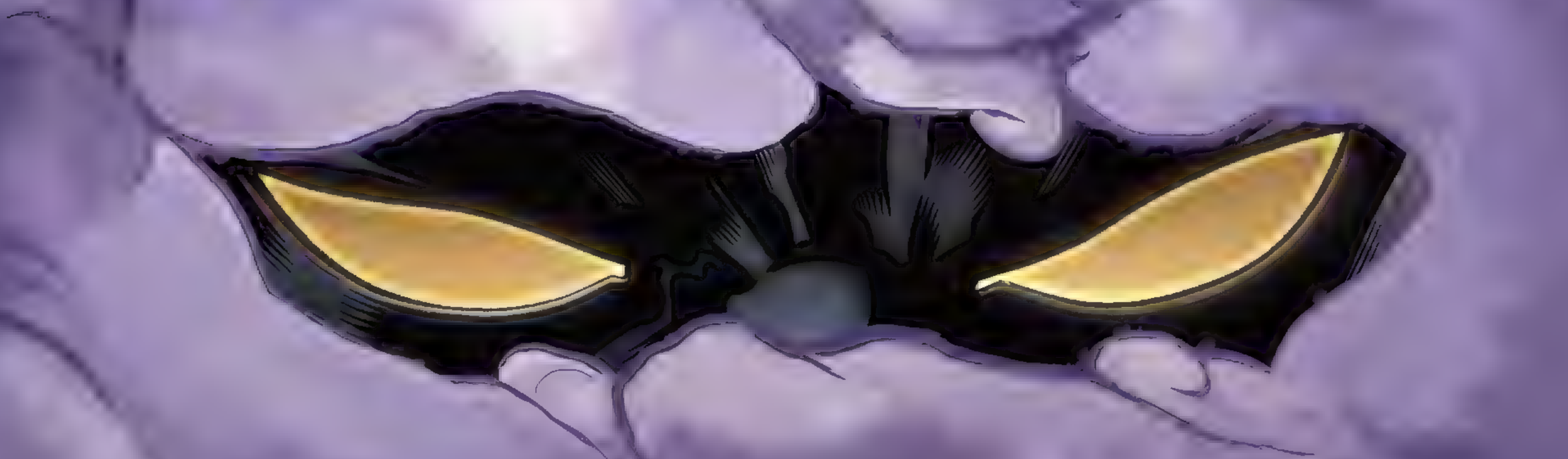
002

PREVIOUSLY IN...

NIGHTCRAWLER

NIGHTCRAWLER HAS RETURNED FROM THE AFTERLIFE TO FIND THE WORLD TO BE A MUCH DIFFERENT PLACE THAN WHAT HE LEFT BEHIND. WITH THE X-MEN DIVIDED, HE'S JOINED HIS OLD TEAMMATES AT THE JEAN GREY SCHOOL FOR HIGHER LEARNING.

SEEKING TO RECONNECT, NIGHTCRAWLER WENT TO VISIT HIS LIFELONG FRIEND AND FIRST LOVE, AMANDA SEFTON. HOWEVER, THEIR REUNION WAS CUT SHORT BY AN ATTACK FROM A FOE CALLING HIMSELF TRIMEGA. FEARING THAT THEIR ADOPTIVE MOTHER, THE SORCERESS MARGALI, MAY BE IN DANGER AS WELL, NIGHTCRAWLER AND AMANDA DECIDE TO RETURN HOME IN SEARCH OF ANSWERS.



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FOR AS FAR BACK AS I CAN REMEMBER, *DER JAHRMARKT* WAS MY HOME.

IT WAS A SMALL, ONE-RING TRAVELLING FAMILY *CIRCUS*--AND IT WAS WONDERFUL.

WHEREVER WE WENT, WE MADE PEOPLE LAUGH AND GASP AND CHEER. PERHAPS WE WEREN'T THE GREATEST SHOW ON THE PLANET--BUT WE HAD FUN. AND SO DID OUR AUDIENCES.

HERE COMES the CIRCUS

MY MOTHER WAS *MARGALI SZARDOS.*

I WAS A FOUNDLING BUT SHE GAVE ME A HOME.

IT DIDN'T MATTER THAT I LOOKED STRANGE.

IN A CIRCUS, STRANGE IS NORMAL.

WHAT MATTERED WAS THAT I FELT *LOVED.*

AMANDA WAS ANOTHER RESCUE.

SHE BECAME MY BEST FRIEND.

TOGETHER, WE LEARNED OUR CRAFT.

UNTIL THE DAY CAME FOR 'MANDA TO MAKE HER DEBUT IN THE RING.

WISH ME LUCK, ELF!

YOU DON'T NEED LUCK.

YOU'RE THE *BEST!*

SHE HAS HELD A VERY SPECIAL PLACE IN MY HEART EVER SINCE.

WINZELDORF. A SMALL TOWN HIGH IN THE MOUNTAINS OF BAVARIA.

Can we go home again?

AMANDA, YOUR SPELL BROUGHT US RIGHT BACK TO WHERE MY LIFE WITH THE *X-MEN* BEGAN--

--WHY AM I NOT SURPRISED?

FATE HAS A WICKED SENSE OF HUMOR.

THIS IS THE CARNIVAL'S OFF-SEASON HOME, REMEMBER?

WHERE BETTER TO START LOOKING FOR MARGALI?

WHERE INDEED? IT'S JUST, I NO LONGER BELIEVE IN COINCIDENCES.

TRIMEGA ATTACKED WITH SPEED AND POWER-- AND *TECH.*

YOU HAD NO CHANCE TO DEFEND YOURSELF.

IF NOT FOR ME AND THE *BAMFS*, YOU'D HAVE BEEN TAKEN.

WE CAUGHT HIM BY SURPRISE. NEXT TIME, I *DOUBT* WE'LL BE SO LUCKY.

THIS IS *MARGALI*.

WE NEED TO FIND HER, FAST!

WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED FOR THIS ONE.

NICE LITTLE ARMY OF MINIONS YOU'VE GOT THERE.

AND I ONLY HAD TO DIE TO GET THEM!

SO, IS THIS HOW YOU DEAL WITH FEAR?

NO, HUNGER.

THE TOWN HASN'T CHANGED. THOUGH THERE ARE FEWER *PITCHFORKS* THAN I REMEMBER.

WELL, THANKS TO MY ILLUSION SPELL, ALL THEY SEE OF US ARE PEOPLE LIKE THEMSELVES.

BUT YOU'RE RIGHT, IT REALLY HASN'T BEEN THAT LONG SINCE *CHARLES XAVIER* RECRUITED YOU.

SEEMS LIKE A *LIFETIME.*

HEY, WAGNER-- SOMETHING WRONG?

NOT REALLY. I'M JUST...

"...REMEMBERING."

IT WAS 'MANDA'S DEBUT ON THE TRAPEZE.

SHE WAS SO BEAUTIFUL. THE AUDIENCE *LOVED* HER.

AND SO DID *I.*

SHE'D TRAINED SO HARD FOR THIS MOMENT. SHE WAS GOING TO BE *PERFECT.*

BUT THEN--!

SHE WAS TOO HIGH. THERE WAS NO NET. THE FALL WOULD KILL HER.

UNLESS...

BAMF

RELAX, 'MANDA! I'VE GOT YOU.

KURT?!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!

SAVING YOU!

I HADN'T THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT I WAS DOING. IT SIMPLY--HAPPENED.

THE AUDIENCE WAS STUNNED.

WE DIDN'T CARE.

WHAT--?!

THEY'RE--CHEERING!

THEY MUST THINK MY RESCUE WAS PART OF THE SHOW!

HOW'D YOU DO IT?

DUNNO.

CAN YOU DO IT AGAIN?

THE WAY THEY'RE ALL CHEERING--

--I SURE *HOPE* SO.

THAT WAS MY BEGINNING--AS *NIGHTCRAWLER.*

YOU'RE SMILING.

REMEMBERING--

--YOUR OPENING NIGHT ON THE TRAPEZE.

YOU SAVED ME, ELF.

I'LL ALWAYS SAVE YOU, WITCH.

WHY DIDN'T YOU GIVE ME THE CHANCE TO DO THE SAME?

THE LIFE I CHOSE WASN'T FOR YOU--WE BOTH KNEW THAT.

THAT DOESN'T MEAN I WOULDN'T COME WHEN NEEDED.

IT'S NOT LIKE I KNEW WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN.

I *LOVE* YOU, KURT.

I SHOULD HAVE HAD THE CHANCE TO AT LEAST *TRY* TO SAVE YOU.

WHO KNOWS? PERHAPS THAT'S WHY I'M BACK?

TO GIVE US ANOTHER CHANCE?

OH, FOR GOODNESS SAKE!

YOUR LITTLE DOPPELGÄNGERS CERTAINLY KNOW HOW TO SPOIL A MOOD.

THEY MEAN WELL.

AND I HAVE A TEMPER.

THEY LIKE THAT PASSION IN YOU.

SO DO I.

ANY WORD ON MARGALI?

NO SIGN OF HER.

NOR, THANK HEAVEN, OF *TRIMEGA.*

WHAT THEY'VE FOUND IS *DER JAHRMARKT.*

WE SHOULD CHECK IT OUT.

PERHAPS THEY'LL HAVE WORD OF MARGALI?

I'LL FOLLOW YOUR LEAD, THEN.

IS THERE A PROBLEM--?

CAN'T ANSWER.

CASTING A SPELL.

IT HASN'T CHANGED.

WISH IT HAD.

'MANDA, WHAT'S WRONG?

THERE WAS AN ARGUMENT BETWEEN MARGALI AND ME. THINGS WERE SAID--

--THE KIND THAT CAN'T BE TAKEN BACK, EVEN IF YOU *WANTED* TO.

THING IS, I *DON'T.*

'MANDA,
LOOK OUT!

KRAK

WHO ARE YOU? WHY YOU COME HERE?

IT'S *HAUS.*

THINK OF HIM AS A WALKING BATTERING RAM...

...WITH FISTS THAT CAN SHATTER SKYSCRAPERS.

BUT WHILE THE ALMIGHTY BLESSED HIM WITH THE STRENGTH OF A TITAN...

...HIS BRAIN NEVER GREW BEYOND THAT OF AN INNOCENT CHILD.

WHEN 'MANDA AND I WERE GROWING UP, HE WAS OUR FRIEND.

APPARENTLY THINGS HAVE CHANGED.

DON'T WORRY, KURT, I'LL-- !

DO *NOTHING*, GIRL!

HAUS, I'VE RESTRAINED THIS ONE! GET THE OTHER!

THE WOMAN'S CALLED *GUMMI*, WHICH IS GERMAN FOR "*RUBBER*."

SHE CAN STRETCH HERSELF, ALMOST WITHOUT LIMIT--

--TO AN EXTENT THAT RIVALS *REED RICHARDS* OF THE *FANTASTIC FOUR*.

SHE, TOO, WAS OUR FRIEND.

SHE'S ALSO WICKED DANGEROUS IN A FIGHT...

...AS THE *BAMFS* QUICKLY LEARN.

THWAK

HAUS! IT'S ME! IT'S-- UHF!!

IF HAUS LANDS A SOLID HIT, MY NEW LIFE WILL BE OVER--BEFORE IT'S BARELY BEGUN!

STRANGE THING IS, I'M ALMOST TEMPTED.

BUT IF I DO THAT...

...WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO 'MANDA?

THEY'RE ACTING LIKE I'M A MONSTER.

I HAVE TO FIND OUT WHY.

STARTING WITH THE NATURAL LEADER HERE, THEIR FIRESTARTER-- FEUER!

HIS FIRST SHOT CAUGHT 'MANDA AND ME BY SURPRISE.

THAT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.

FEUER, IT'S ME, *KURT WAGNER!*

WE'RE FRIENDS, MAN-- WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

KURT WAGNER'S *DEAD!*

OW!

AND WE WON'T LET YOU SULLY HIS MEMORY!

BAMF

HAUS IS HUGE--

--BUT HE'S NOT INVULNERABLE.

HIS SCREAM TELLS US ALL HOW MUCH FEUER'S EYEBEAMS HURT.

HE RESPONDS LIKE ANY CHILD--

--BY TRYING TO MAKE THE PAIN GO AWAY!

I HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO STOP THIS, BEFORE SOMEONE *REALLY* GETS HURT.

FIRST THINGS FIRST...

THE *BAMFS* ARE TRYING THEIR HARDEST.

BUT THEY LITERALLY CANNOT GET A GRIP ON GUMMI.

WHEREAS SHE HAS NO PROBLEM WRAPPING THEM UP AS TIGHT AS 'MANDA.

SHE CLEARLY EXPECTS ME TO BE NO DIFFERENT.

YOU ARE NO MATCH FOR ME, DEMON.

BAMF

FOOL! D'YOU THINK YOU CAN HURT ME?

NOT ME, NO.

BAMF

IT'S ALL IN THE TIMING.

=GASP!=

SLAM

MY HERO.

YOU MEAN THAT?

YEAH. RIGHT. BE REAL, ELF.

?

NOW WHAT?

WE APPEAL TO OUR FRIEND.

YOU HURT HAUS!

HAUS WILL HURT YOU-- BAD!

HAUS-- NO!

LOOK AT US. YOU KNOW US.

IT IS *AMANDA* AND *KURT.*

WE THREE HAVE BEEN *FRIENDS.* ALL OUR LIVES.

WHY WOULD YOU HURT YOUR FRIENDS?

HAUS-- KNOWS YOU.

HAUS IS HAPPY!

HAUS'S FRIENDS HAVE COME HOME!

BEING SQUISHED HERE!

GIVE HIM HIS MOMENT.

YOU'LL BE FINE, I PROMISE.

YOU WERE DEAD, KURT.

I'M AN *X-MAN.*

FOR US, IT SEEMS, THAT TRICK HARDLY EVER WORKS.

FOR A MAN OF FAITH LIKE YOU--THAT MUST BE HARD.

I'M TRULY SORRY, MY FRIEND.

IT ISN'T ALWAYS OUR PLACE TO COMPREHEND THE WILL OF THE ALMIGHTY.

OURS IS TO FOLLOW WHERE HIS PATH LEADS, AND HOPE FOR THE BEST.

SO--WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?

WE'RE LOOKING FOR MARGALI, FEUER. CAN YOU HELP US?

ENOUGH OF THIS FOOLISHNESS, MARGALI. STOP PLAYING YOUR STUPID GAMES!

SHOW YOURSELF--*NOW*--OR KURT AND I ARE GONE.

SUCH TONE. SUCH WORDS.

I REMEMBER, CHILD, WHEN YOU AND KURT USED TO CALL ME *MOTHER.*

YEAH?

I REMEMBER WHEN YOU USED TO *DESERVE* IT.

...AND I TELL YOU BOTH I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

I WALK THE *WINDING WAY*--I HAVE NO TRUCK WITH AUTOMATONS.

THE TRIMEGA CAME FOR 'MANDA. WE WANTED TO MAKE SURE IT DIDN'T ALSO COME FOR YOU.

WINZELDORF'S OUR *HOME*, KURT. WE LIVE HERE IN PEACE.

YOU GUYS SAVE CREATION.

WE JUST MAKE KIDS LAUGH.

THIS GUY WAS PRETTY DETERMINED.

YOU SURE HE DOESN'T LOOK FAMILIAR?

NO, HAUS. THIS ISN'T ONE OF YOUR TOYS.

I'M SORRY, 'MANDA. WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT IS.

COOL-- BLASTER BOY!

HOW 'BOUT YOU, MARGALI?

CHILD, I TOLD YOU--

YARGH!

THAT-- HURT!

I'M SORRY, MY FRIENDS.

IT APPEARS WE'VE LED OUR ADVERSARY RIGHT TO YOU.

SO THIS TIME WE STOMP HIM, RIGHT, ELF?

BOLD WORDS, LITTLE WITCH-GIRL--

--AND FALSE HOPE.

TRIMEGA HAS COME FOR YOU.

ALL WHO TRY TO STOP HIM--

--SHALL DIE!

NEXT: NIGHTCRAWLER VS. TRIMEGA: ROUND 2!

NIGHTCRAWLER

ALL-NEW MARVEL NOW!

CLAREMONT
NAUCK
ROSENBERG

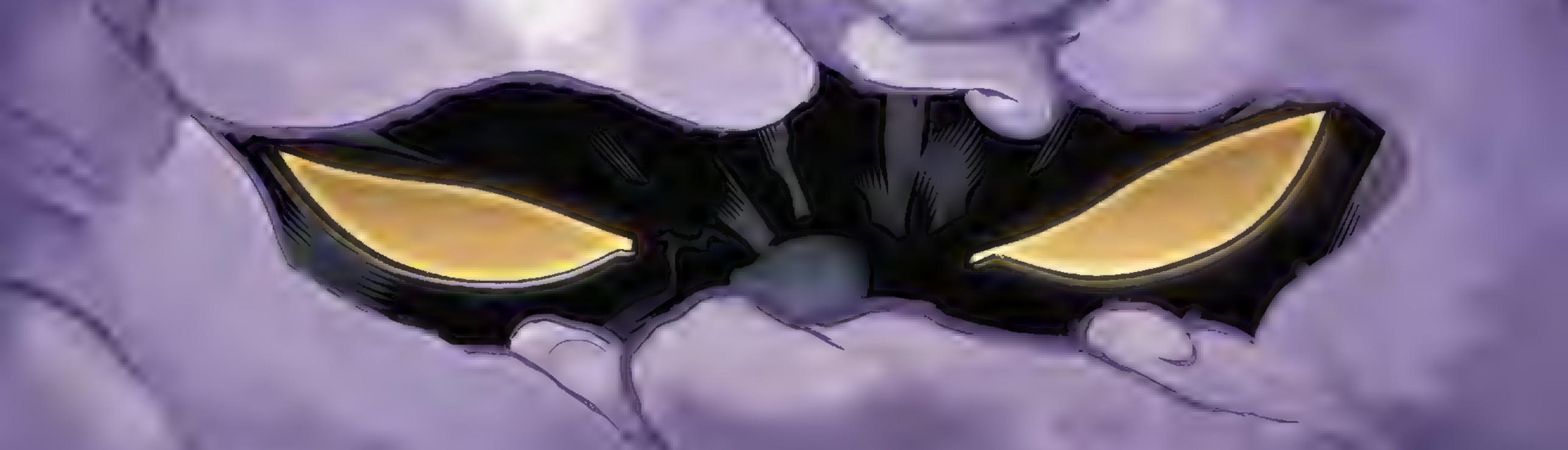
003

PREVIOUSLY IN...

NIGHTCRAWLER

AFTER RETURNING FROM THE AFTERLIFE, NIGHTCRAWLER JOINED HIS OLD TEAMMATES AT THE JEAN GREY SCHOOL FOR HIGHER LEARNING. SEEKING TO RECONNECT WITH HIS FORMER LIFE, HE WENT TO VISIT HIS LIFELONG FRIEND AND FIRST LOVE, AMANDA SEFTON. HOWEVER, THEIR REUNION WAS CUT SHORT BY AN ATTACK FROM A FOE CALLING HIMSELF TRIMEGA.

ABLE TO FEND OFF THE ATTACK, KURT AND AMANDA TRAVELED BACK HOME TO GERMANY IN SEARCH OF THEIR ADOPTIVE MOTHER, THE SORCERESS MARGALI SZARDOS, WHO THEY SUSPECTED MIGHT BE IN DANGER AS WELL. DESPITE SOME CONFUSION UPON THEIR ARRIVAL, KURT WAS able TO EXPLAIN HIS RESURRECTION. BUT THEIR REUNION WAS CUT SHORT WHEN TRIMEGA SUDDENLY APPEARED. LOOKS LIKE IT'S TIME FOR ROUND TWO...



CHRIS CLAREMONT
WRITER

TODD NAUCK
ARTIST

RACHELLE ROSENBERG
COLOR ARTIST

VC'S CORY PETIT
LETTERER

JAMIE McKELVIE WITH MATTHEW WILSON
COVER ARTISTS

NIKO HENRICHON
VARIANT COVER ARTIST

XANDER JAROWEY
ASSISTANT EDITOR

DANIEL KETCHUM
EDITOR

MIKE MARTS
X-MEN GROUP EDITOR

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EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED...
...TRI, TRIMEGA AGAIN!

THIS BRUTE CALLS ITSELF *TRIMEGA.*

HE CAME HUNTING *AMANDA* BACK IN NEW YORK.

SOMEHOW HE FOLLOWED US TO *WINZELDORF.*

I DON'T KNOW IF HE'S A MAN WEARING ARMOR, A CYBORG OR A ROBOT. WHATEVER HE IS, HIS POWER MAKES HIM A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH.

KURT WAGNER-- NIGHTCRAWLER!

AMANDA SEFTON.

HAUS.

[& BAMFS]

MARGALI SZARDOS.

FEVER.

GUMMI.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE, *NIGHTCRAWLER?*

YOU'VE LED THIS MONSTER RIGHT TO OUR *HOME!*

I'LL HAPPILY APOLOGIZE LATER, GUMMI.

RIGHT NOW, THE IMPORTANT THING...

BAMF

THWAK

...IS *STOPPING* HIM...

...BEFORE HE DOES ANY *HARM!*

BAMF

BAMF

NICE TRY.

POW

NO CIGAR.

THAT FIST CAME OUT OF HIS *BACK!*

THANK HEAVEN FOR MY REACTION TIME.

A SOLID IMPACT WOULD HAVE SMASHED MY HEAD--*OH!*

OF COURSE.

THIS IS WHY HE CALLS HIMSELF *TRIMEGA.*

THERE ARE *THREE* OF THEM.

SO *ROBOT* IT IS, THEN.

YOU WERE WARNED NOT TO INTERFERE.

NOW PAY THE PRICE.

YOU WILL NOT HURT A FRIEND OF *HAUS!*

STAND DOWN. WE HAVE NO QUARREL WITH YOU.

FIGHT ONE AMONG *DER JAHRMARKT...*

...YOU FIGHT US *ALL!*

I'VE SEEN *FEUER* MELT BLOCKS OF STEEL WITH HIS FLAMES.

THE TRIMEGA ISN'T EVEN SCORCHED.

IT UNLEASHES HURRICANE-LEVEL WINDS...

...THAT DIVERT FEUER'S ATTACK FROM THE TRIMEGA TO *GUMMI.*

WHILE ANOTHER ATTACKS WITH THE POWER OF *WATER.*

ALL THIS HAPPENS LITERALLY IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.

BUT FAST AS THESE BRUISERS ARE...

...I'M DETERMINED TO BE *FASTER!*

SADLY...

...HIS STRENGTH IS A MATCH FOR HIS SPEED.

CHK

*MUTANT, YOU HAVE INTERFERED FOR THE **LAST** TIME.*

BAMF

TIME TO GO, 'MANDA. I NEED TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE!

KURT-- BEHIND YOU!

THIS BATTLE IS OVER.

YOU CANNOT ESCAPE TRIMEGA.

I'VE ONLY JUST COME BACK TO LIFE.

COULD THIS BE THE SCALES OF FATE TRYING TO *BALANCE* THEMSELVES?

MONSTERS--

--YOU DO NOT *THREATEN* THE CHILDREN OF *MARGALI SZARDOS!*

I AM A *WIZARD OF THE WINDING WAY.*

YOU TRIFLE WITH ME AT YOUR *PERIL.*

YOU HAVE DONE ENOUGH *HARM* TODAY--

SHE CAME TO OUR RESCUE...

...JUST LIKE WHEN WE WERE KIDS.

I DON'T REMEMBER BEING THIS *INTIMIDATED* BY HER BACK THEN, THOUGH.

I

CAST

YOU

OUT!

POOF

DON'T WORRY, MARGALI, I'VE GOT YOU!

I DON'T THINK WE HAVE A CHOICE ANYMORE.

THE TRIMEGAS ARE TOO DANGEROUS; WE KNOW VIRTUALLY *NOTHING* ABOUT THEM.

OUR SAFEST COURSE OF ACTION IS TO WITHDRAW TO THE *JEAN GREY SCHOOL* AND ASK THE X-MEN FOR *HELP.*

IN THIS, KURT, I DEFER TO YOU.

THAT'S A NEW ONE.

MARGALI USUALLY DEFERS TO *NO ONE.*

CUT HER SOME SLACK, 'MANDA.

WITH RESPECT, KURT, WE MUST REFUSE.

THEIR FIGHT WASN'T WITH US, THEY WERE AFTER *YOU.*

WE'RE NOT SUPER HEROES, WE'RE *CIRCUS FOLK.*

THIS IS *WAY* OUT OF OUR LEAGUE.

BETTER WE STAY HERE AN' GO ON WITH OUR LIVES, Y'KNOW?

...AN', NO OFFENSE, PRAY THE STORM MOVES ON AFTER *YOU.*

NONE TAKEN, GUMMI. BUT WHAT IF YOU'RE *WRONG?*

YOU'RE THE *X-MEN,* YAH? BEST YOU PUT A STOP T' THESE BAD BOYS B'FORE ANYTHING LIKE THAT HAPPENS.

AIN'T THAT WHAT YOU DO?

FAIR POINT.

BE WELL, MY FRIENDS.

NOW THAT YOU'RE BACK FROM-- *WHEREVER,* WAGNER, DON'T BE A STRANGER.

WE'VE MISSED YOU.

AS I DID YOU, MY FRIEND.

'TIL NEXT TIME, FEUER!

RACHEL MUST HAVE BEEN MONITORING ME *TELEPATHICALLY.*

WE'RE GREETED BY A FULL-COURT PRESS OF X-MEN.

I GET THE FEELING A *WARM WELCOME* IS TOO MUCH TO HOPE FOR.

YOU DARE BRING MARGALI SZARDOS HERE, KURT?

ORORO, SHE NEEDS OUR *HELP.*

I DO NOT CARE.

ORORO--

--CALM DOWN.

ALL THAT I AM, IN LARGE MEASURE, COMES FROM MARGALI SZARDOS. SHE *RAISED* ME. AND AMANDA IS MY *HEART.*

I ASKED THEM HERE BECAUSE THEY ARE IN DANGER. BECAUSE *HELPING* PEOPLE IS WHAT THE X-MEN *DO.*

MARGALI HAS COMMITTED UNSPEAKABLE *ATROCITIES...*

YOU THINK *I* DON'T REMEMBER!

AT LEAST-- THE X-MEN I REMEMBER.

HAS THAT CHANGED?

YOU'D DO WELL TO REMEMBER THAT THIS IS A *SCHOOL.*

OUR STUDENTS-- AND THEIR PARENTS--COUNT ON US TO KEEP THEM *SAFE.*

IF MARGALI WANTS OUR *TRUST*...

...SHE'LL HAVE TO *EARN* IT.

DOES THE SAME APPLY TO *ME?*

AFTER ALL, MY *DEMON* SIRE NEARLY CONQUERED *HEAVEN!*

HE SENT THE X-MEN TO HELL!

I'M NO LONGER THE MAN I WAS BEFORE...

HOW DO YOU KNOW I WON'T DO *WORSE* TO YOU?

STOP IT!

RIGHT NOW, KURT, I MEAN IT!

THESE ARE YOUR *FRIENDS!* YOU *DIED* FIGHTING FOR THEM. I WON'T LET YOU THROW THAT AWAY, NOT FOR ME.

NOR ME.

I WAS NEVER YOUR ENEMY, WINDRIDER. I ONLY WANT WHAT IS BEST FOR THE CHILDREN I LOVE.

YEAH, RIGHT.

'MANDA, YOU CHARGE THE WAY FOR ME, YET TURN YOUR BACK ON MARGALI?

YOU'VE BEEN OUT OF THE LOOP A LONG TIME, ELF.

AND WHAT YOU MISSED WASN'T VERY *NICE.*

NO WORRIES. A QUICK *MIND-SCAN* SHOULD SORT THINGS OUT.

EASY FOR YOU TO SAY, *TELEPATH.*

KURT'S FATHER NEARLY CONQUERED HEAVEN?

THAT'S A STORY I CAN'T *WAIT* TO HEAR.

KURT, I--!

NOT NOW, *STORM.*

WE'LL TALK LATER.

HE ONLY CALLS ME "STORM" LIKE THAT WHEN HE'S REALLY ANGRY.

WILL HE, HANK? I WONDER.

HE'LL BE FINE, ORORO, REALLY.

I REMEMBER *DYING.*

IN BATTLE, OF COURSE, FIGHTING FOR THE FUTURE OF MUTANTKIND.

BUT THAT WASN'T THE END.

QUITE THE OPPOSITE.

NICE VIEW.

AS THE SONG GOES, *"ON A CLEAR DAY, YOU CAN SEE FOREVER."*

QUITE LITERALLY.

MISS THE PLACE, DO YA?

I...

...DON'T KNOW.

HAVE A BREW, YOU'LL FEEL BETTER.

I EVEN GOT YOUR FAVE.

DANKE.

YOU'D THINK I'D BE SATISFIED, LOGAN. I HAD MY PROOF OF FAITH. EVERYTHING I BELIEVED WAS-- *TRUE.*

AND YET, SOMEHOW, IT WASN'T ENOUGH.

WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY AROSE TO ONCE MORE FIGHT BESIDE THE *X-MEN...*

...I TOOK IT.

I TURNED MY BACK ON *HEAVEN.*

YOU'RE A *HERO,* BUB.

THAT'S WHAT WE *DO.*

IS IT?

BOTTOM LINE, ELF, IS THAT YOU'RE *ALIVE.*

EMBRACE THAT, WHY DON'T'CHA.

SORRY ABOUT YOUR PALS HERE. THEY WERE GETTIN' PRETTY HINKY, THE WAY YOU LOCKED 'EM OUT.

I WANTED SOME TIME *ALONE.*

I STILL DO.

LIKE I CARE?

KURT, YOU GOT A SECOND CHANCE. YOU REALLY HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT?

I CAN'T BELIEVE *I'M* THE ONE MAKIN' THIS PITCH--

YOU EVER THINK WHAT HAPPENED UP THERE *WASN'T* AN ACCIDENT?

THAT YOU'RE BACK HERE BECAUSE *HIGHER AUTHORITY* FIGURED YOU WERE NEEDED?

LOGAN, I GAVE UP MY PLACE IN HEAVEN--!

SO EARN IT BACK.

YOU MAKE IT SOUND SO *SIMPLE.*

TRUE THAT, *MEIN FREUND.*

WHAT CAN I SAY, I'M A SIMPLE KIND'A GUY.

I USED T' FIGURE I COULD GO ON, I DUNNO, *FOREVER*, RIGHT T' THE END OF EVERYTHING.

AN' WHO KNOWS, MAYBE EVEN BEYOND?

THAT, SOONER OR LATER, ME AN' THE *REDHEAD...*

WITH MY HEALING FACTOR GONE, GUESS THAT JOKE'S ON ME, Y'KNOW.

DON'T CHANGE A THING, THOUGH.

THERE'S *NOBODY* LIKE US IN CREATION, KURT. WE'RE *X-MEN.*

WE'VE SEEN THINGS, DONE THINGS, THAT EVERYONE ELSE CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE.

FATE CAN PUT US THROUGH ALL THE GAMES IT WANTS, NONE OF THAT MATTERS.

'CAUSE WHEN THE CHIPS ARE DOWN, WHEN THE FIGHTIN' REALLY MATTERS...

...WE'LL ALWAYS FIND A WAY TO WIN.

WITH YOU, WE WON BIG.

THE "WHY" DON'T MATTER, KURT.

FACT IS, YOU'RE *HERE.*

QUESTION IS, WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO ABOUT IT?

START FRESH, DO THE VERY BEST I CAN.

TRUE THAT, BUB. NOW AN' FOREVER!

ELSEWHERE...

YOUR MIND'S A PROPER *MAZE*, AMANDA, BUT I'M FINDING MY WAY.

SO FAR, NOTHING IN IT MARKS YOU AS A THREAT.

YOU'RE A TRULY AWESOME TELEPATH, *RACHEL.*

BUT I WAS TAUGHT MY SKILLS BY *STEPHEN STRANGE...*

...MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS AND *SORCERER SUPREME.*

WHICH MEANS YOU'RE *WRONG.*

I AM A THREAT.

I'M TRULY SORRY ABOUT THIS.

NOTHING PERSONAL, JUST NECESSARY.

I CAN'T HAVE YOU INTERFERING. YOU'LL JUST GET IN THE WAY.

I ONLY HOPE I'M NOT *TOO LATE.*

WHAT CONNECTION IS THERE BETWEEN AMANDA--OR *YOU*, MARGALI--AND THE *TRIMEGAS?*

THE REALMS *BEYOND* THIS PATHETIC SPHERE OF FLESH ARE IN A FASCINATING STATE OF FLUX.

SUDDENLY, *ALL* THINGS ARE POSSIBLE.

AZAZEL'S RECENT INCURSION INTO *"HEAVEN"* IS BUT THE LATEST EXAMPLE OF THAT.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?

I WALK THE *"WINDING WAY."* I KNOW MANY THINGS.

WHERE MIGHT THAT PATH BE LEADING YOU NOW? A BENIGN WAY, OR--?

TRUTH, WINDRIDER, I'M NOT EVEN SURE OF THAT MYSELF.

WHAT I KNOW FOR SURE...

WHAT THE DEVIL?!

...IS THAT WE *ALL*...

...HAVE A PART TO PLAY.

SORCERESS, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!

A SIMPLE ENCHANTMENT, REALLY, FOR ONE OF MY *SKILL*.

YOU HAVE *ONE* CHANCE TO SET THIS RIGHT--!

OR WHAT, *STORM*?

DO YOU REMEMBER NOTHING FROM OUR PREVIOUS ENCOUNTERS?

MY ENCHANTMENTS SHIELD ME AGAINST BOTH YOUR WINDS AND LIGHTNING.

SEE HOW *EASILY* I TURN THEM BACK UPON YOU?

AND ONCE I'VE LIBERATED MYSELF FROM THESE SHACKLES...

... I WILL LITERALLY PICK YOUR BRAINS FOR THE MEMORIES I NEED.

SADLY, I FEAR, WHEN I'M DONE...

...THERE WILL BE *NOTHING* LEFT OF YOU.

NOT THE WAY YOU LIKELY THOUGHT YOUR LIVES WOULD END, I KNOW.

BUT FATE IS REPLETE WITH WICKED SURPRISES.

LOOK ON THE BRIGHTER SIDE, HOWEVER.

BY TAKING FROM YOU, I LEAVE DEAR *KURT* FREE TO CONTINUE WITH HIS NEW LIFE IN PEACE.

FAREWELL, X-MEN. WE SHALL NOT MEET AGAIN.

ALARM TRIPPED IN THE DETENTION CENTER. SO MUCH FOR OUR QUIET AFTERNOON.
C'MON, TELEPATHS, GIMME A FLAMING REPORT!
CECELIA, IS THERE ANY WORD ABOUT AMANDA AND MARGALI?
INTERNAL COMLINKS ARE ALL OFF-LINE, BUT THE LAST WORD I HAD FROM RACHEL WAS THAT EVERYTHING WAS OKAY.
SHE SOUNDED PRETTY ENCOURAGING.
WHERE ARE YOU...?
HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON?
EVEN THE TEACHERS DON'T KNOW.
PROBABLY SOME STUPID DRILL!
MAYBE THE FEDS ARE COMING TO SHUT US DOWN!
FIGHT!
LOOKS LIKE, TEON.
OH, NO!
EVERYONE GET AWAY FROM THE WINDOWS!
THIS ISN'T A GAME!
IT'S NOT SAFE!
GET TO SHELTER-- NOW!

SURRENDER, MUTANTS!

AHHHH!

MR. WAGNER, HELP!

TODAY IT *ENDS.*

THESE THE CREEPS YOU FOUGHT?

JA--BUT LAST TIME, THERE WERE ONLY *THREE.*

NOW WE FACE AN *ARMY.*

THAT MAKES IT A FAIR FIGHT.

LET'S GET 'EM!

TO BE CONTINUED!

NEXT ISSUE

NIGHTCRAWLER #4

COVER BY JAMIE McKELVIE & MATTHEW WILSON

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X-MEN TITLES ON SALE !

- ☐ **ALL-NEW X-MEN #28**
  The Future Brotherhood has attacked! Will Xavier's psychic powers be too much for even Jean Grey?
- ☐ **ALL-NEW X-FACTOR #9**
  Having "rescued" the young Georgia Dakei, X-Factor is left with a simple question: What to do with her?
- ☐ **AMAZING X-MEN #8**
  Wolverine takes a trip to Canada…But when he learns an old friend is missing, his visit turns into a hairy situation.
- ☐ **AMAZING X-MEN ANNUAL #1**
  Storm and the Amazing X-Men go to Africa as a death in Storm's family sheds light on a new threat!
- ☐ **CYCLOPS #2**
  Cyclops and Corsair head out to open space -- but what is Corsair hiding? Also, Skrulls!
- ☐ **DEADPOOL #30**
  Roller skates, afros, and disco--Oh my! Deadpool has recruited some GROOVY help in fighting vampires!
- ☐ **DEADPOOL VS. CARNAGE #4**
  Will Carnage spread Deadpool all over the landscape? Or will Deadpool talk the scarlet sociopath's ear off?
- ☐ **NIGHTCRAWLER #3**
  Nightcrawler and the X-Men race to save his family from a new threat. But could the real enemy be right under their noses?
- ☐ **MAGNETO #5**
  Magneto discovers a mysterious woman's been following his every move. But is she friend or foe?
- ☐ **SAVAGE WOLVERINE #20**
  Meet the sole survivor of the Valentine's Day Massacre -- WOLVERINE!
- ☐ **UNCANNY X-MEN #22**
  The final chapter of X-Men vs. S.H.I.E.L.D.! A helicarrier attacking the school? Never a dull day…
- ☐ **WOLVERINE #8 & #9**
  Wolverine takes a trip to Japan to find a little peace of mind. Meanwhile, Sabretooth isn't done playing with Logan yet.
- ☐ **WOLVERINE & THE X-MEN #5**
  Wolverine's at the mercy of the Phoenix Corporation while Storm races to save the Jean Grey School!
- ☐ **X-FORCE #6**
  One member of X-Force is dead. Can the others escape the same fate?
- ☐ **X-MEN #15**
  The Future is here…and he wants Jubilee to give him his son back!

NIGHTRAVEN

ALL-NEW MARVEL NOW!

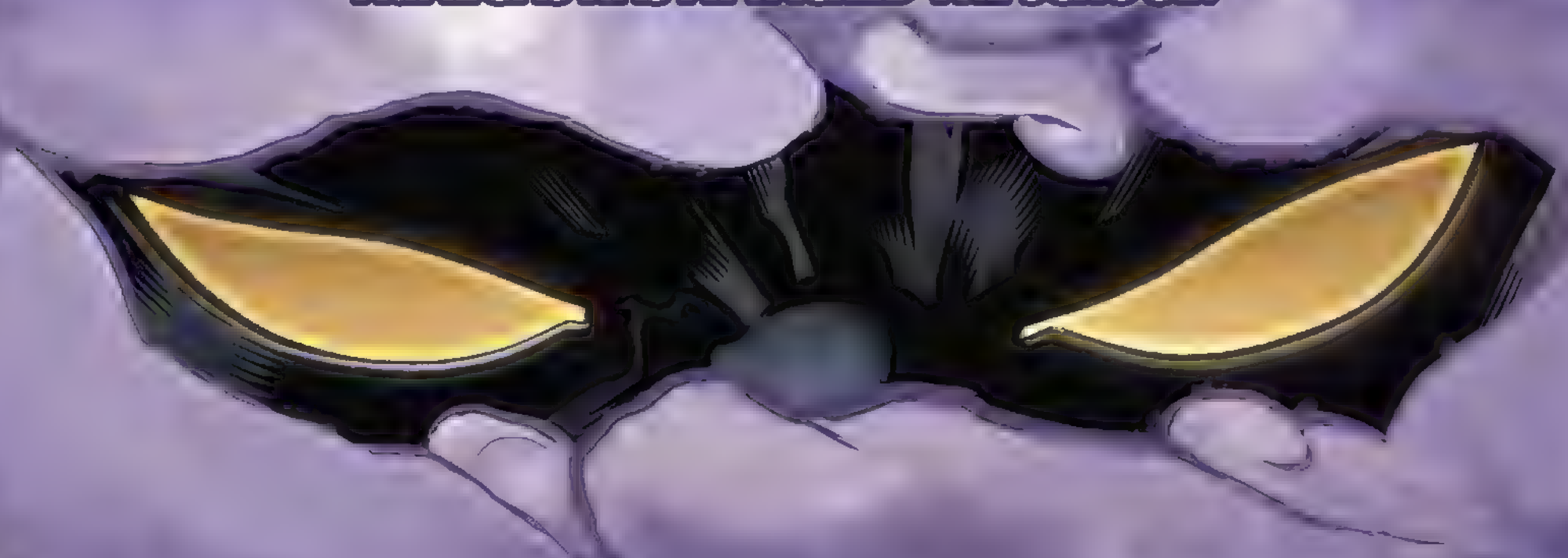
CLAREMONT
NAUCK
ROSENBERG

004

PREVIOUSLY IN...

NIGHTCRAWLER

RECENTLY RETURNING FROM THE AFTERLIFE, NIGHTCRAWLER SET OUT TO RECONNECT WITH HIS LIFELONG FRIEND AND FIRST LOVE, AMANDA SEFTON. THEIR REUNION WAS CUT SHORT BY AN ATTACK FROM A ROBOTIC FOE CALLED TRIMEGA. FOLLOWING THE FIGHT, NIGHTCRAWLER AND AMANDA TRAVELED TO THEIR CHILDHOOD HOME, THE JAHRMARKT CIRCUS, BUT WERE ATTACKED AGAIN, THIS TIME BY THREE TRIMEGAS. DEFEATING THEM WITH THE HELP OF THEIR ADOPTED MOTHER, MARGALI SZARDOS, THEY NEXT TRAVELED BACK TO THE JEAN GREY SCHOOL SEEKING HELP FROM THE OTHER X-MEN. BUT THEY MAY HAVE UNWITTINGLY PUT THEIR FRIENDS AT RISK, AS IT SEEMS THAT MARGALI HAS BEEN HIDING MORE SINISTER INTENTIONS. AND ON TOP OF THAT, AN ARMY OF TRIMEGAS HAS ATTACKED THE SCHOOL!



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TODAY, THE JEAN GREY SCHOOL BECAME A *WAR ZONE.*

LONG AGO I BECAME INURED TO THE SOUNDS OF BATTLE. FOR *X-MEN*, THAT IS A REALITY OF *LIFE.*

NIGHTCRAWLER, HELP!

BUT I WILL *NEVER* GET USED TO THE SOUND OF CHILDREN SCREAMING IN *TERROR.*

WE CAN'T LET THE *TRIMEGAS* INTO THE BUILDING!

TAKE THE FIGHT TO *THEM!*

IN A MATTER OF SECONDS, *PAIGE GUTHRIE* TEARS AWAY HER SKIN...

...REVEALING A REPLACEMENT *HUSK* OF *ARMOR* UNDERNEATH.

JONO, WATCH MY BACK!

WHAT'S OUR PLAN?

JONOTHON STARSMORE GENERATES BEAMS OF PSIONIC FIRE.

I'LL BREAK THESE CLOWNS.

YOU BURN 'EM!

WHOA!

SORG

GUESS I MAY HAVE TO BREAK 'EM *AND* BURN 'EM.

WHAT'CHA FIGURE, ELF?

THE *TRIMEGAS* WANT *AMANDA*. FIRST PRIORITY, WE *SAVE* HER.

SECOND, WE DEAL WITH THEM-- *PERMANENTLY*.

KIDS, BEHIND ME! MY *FORCEFIELD* WILL PROTECT YOU!

EYES FRONT, PEOPLE! WE GOT *TROUBLE!*

RICO HAS MORE COURAGE THAN SENSE.

FORTUNATELY, HE HAS THE *WOLVERINE* TO PROTECT HIM.

DON'T WORRY, KID!

BAMF

YOU AIN'T GONNA *DIE* TODAY.

ONE MORE FOR YOU, CECELIA.

LEAVE THE TRIMEGA...

...TO US!

NICE CALL, NIGHTCRAWLER.

PSYLOCKE?

GOING ALL *PROPER* ON ME, KURT--SHAME ON YOU, I THOUGHT WE WERE MATES!

LEAVE THE TRIMEGAS TO US. THERE ARE MORE THAN ENOUGH X-MEN TO HANDLE THEM.

YOU AND LOGAN DEAL WITH **MARGALI SZARDOS** AND **AMANDA SEFTON**.

ON OUR WAY.

YOU TAKE CARE, OLD MAN. REMEMBER, YOU HAVE LIMITS NOW.

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, BETS.

I'VE **NO** PSI-CONTACT WITH **BEAST** OR **STORM**. START BY CHECKING ON THEM.

THOUGH I'VE A REALLY **BAD** FEELING ABOUT WHAT YOU'LL FIND.

SKRAK

HANK! ORORO!

MERCIFUL GOD IN HEAVEN!

THERE'S *NOTHING* HERE BUT EMPTY COSTUMES...

...AND A ROOMFUL OF *PAPER.*

WHAT'CHA THINK?

TRUTH? THAT IF I DON'T SAY IT ALOUD...

...WHAT I FEAR MOST WON'T BE REAL.

THESE PAPERS ARE NOTHING BUT...

...PICTURES.

AND EACH IMAGE APPEARS TO BE A *MEMORY.*

WHAT WE SEE BEFORE US IS THE TOTALITY OF BOTH THEIR *LIVES.*

THAT'S IT THEN? THEY'RE *DEAD?*

BARRING A *MIRACLE,* I FEAR SO.

COULD YOUR *GIRLFRIEND* HAVE DONE THIS?

SHE DOES NOT USE *BALEFUL* MAGIC--

--ISN'T THAT RIGHT, AMANDA?

I DON'T USE MAGIC AT ALL, IF I CAN AVOID IT.

AND *NEVER* TO DO SOMETHING LIKE *THIS.*

WHAT ABOUT *MARGALI?*

IF SHE WANTED INFORMATION, THIS IS A GOOD WAY FOR A SORCERESS TO GET IT...*AND* TAKE OUT THE OPPOSITION AT THE SAME TIME.

CAN THE PROCESS BE *REVERSED?*

I'VE LEARNED A LOT SINCE MARGALI AND I LAST PARTED WAYS.

YOU HAVE MY WORD, KURT, I'LL SET THIS *RIGHT.*

WHY SHOULD WE *TRUST* YOU?

BECAUSE *I* TRUST HER.

LOGAN, SHE IS MY *HEART.*

YOUR CALL, ELF...

...LET'S HOPE IT'S THE *RIGHT* ONE.

KURT, SOMETHING'S WRONG!

I'M PUTTING TOGETHER HANK, BUT PIECES ARE MISSING. HE DOESN'T KNOW YOU'RE *ALIVE!*

MARGALI'S STOLEN *EVERYTHING* THEY KNEW RELATING TO YOUR RESCUE!

BUT *WHY?*

MAYBE T' FOLLOW THE *ROAD* THE X-MEN TOOK WHEN WE CAME TO RESCUE YOU.

THAT *FOOL!*

THE *WINDING WAY* HAS LED MARGALI TO THE SECRETS OF LIFE--

--NOW SHE WANTS WHAT LIES *BEYOND*.

SHE'S AN ADDICT--GIVE HER THE CHANCE TO ACQUIRE MORE KNOWLEDGE, MORE *POWER*...

...SHE CAN'T SAY *NO!*

BUT THE AFTER-REALMS ARE IN *CHAOS*.

IF SHE OPENS THE PORTAL, *GOD HIMSELF* KNOWS WHAT SHE MIGHT UNLEASH!

KURT, WE HAVE TO *STOP* HER!

NO!

BAMF

I ASK YOU--I BEG YOU--SAVE OUR FRIENDS!

RESTORE THEM--KEEP THEM SAFE-- *PLEASE*.

KEEP YOURSELF SAFE.

THE *BAMFS* WILL STAY TO PROTECT YOU.

LEAVE THE REST TO *US*.

YOU NEED MY HELP, KURT!

HANK AND ORORO NEED IT MORE.

STOPPING MARGALI WILL BE A *HOLLOW* VICTORY IF WE CANNOT SAVE OUR FRIENDS.

WE'RE *PAST* TALKIN', GIRL.

JUST DO WHAT'S NECESSARY.

SAME AS US.

BEFORE I'M DONE, WOLVERINE, I PLAN TO DO THAT--

--AND *MORE!*

WHAT'RE *YOU* RUNTS LOOKING AT?

DO YOUR JOB, *BAMFS*, SECURE THE AREA.

I HAVE *LIVES* TO *SAVE.*

LOGAN, ARE YOU *SURE* OF THIS--?

I'VE LOST MY *HEALING*, ELF, NOT MY SENSES.

MARGALI'S THIS WAY.

JUST BE SURE TO REMEMBER YOUR *TRAINING*--

--LOOK *OUT!*

GET YOUR BEARINGS, MY FRIEND.

LEAVE THE REST TO *ME*.

THE TRIMEGAS.

THEY MUST BE MARGALI'S CHESS PIECES. SHE USED THEM TO ENSURE WE WOULD PLAY RIGHT INTO HER HAND.

RIP

SHE PLANNED THIS FROM THE *START!*

SHRAK

WHICH MEANS IN ORDER TO STOP *THEM*, YOU HAVE T' STOP *HER*.

WE WILL, *BOTH* OF US.

YOU CAN GET TO HER FASTER WITHOUT ME. I'LL JUST *SLOW* Y' DOWN.

GO!

I KNOW HE'S *RIGHT*.

THAT DOESN'T MAKE ME FEEL ANY *BETTER*.

OKAY, BUBS--

--YOU'VE HAD *YOUR* FUN.

NOW IT'S MY TURN!

MEIN GOTT-- MARGALI--

--WHAT HAVE YOU *DONE*?!

CONSIDER THIS THE *CULMINATION* OF A LIFELONG *DREAM*.

YOU *FLED* THE *WORLD BEYOND*, KURT--

--NOW I INTEND TO *CLAIM* IT FOR MY OWN.

THIS IS NOT A *GAME*, WOMAN.

YOU ARE PLAYING WITH FORCES *FAR* BEYOND YOUR COMPREHENSION--

--OR YOUR *CONTROL!*

SHE ISN'T LISTENING.

SHE LIKELY DOESN'T CARE.

TO HER, THIS IS THE MOST SPECTACULAR ADVENTURE.

CONSEQUENCES DON'T MATTER.

SHE'LL *NEVER* BE SATISFIED.

SHE'LL *NEVER* STOP.

MARGALI, I'M *BEGGING* YOU!

EMBRACE THE *BETTER* SIDE OF YOUR NATURE!

AMANDA! WATCH OUT!

MARGALI'S GUARDIAN TRIMEGA ANSWERS FOR HIS MISTRESS.

=OW!=

ENOUGH!

I FEEL FLOODED WITH *RAGE*.

THE WOMAN I *LOVE* IS IN DANGER.

I WILL *SAVE* HER.

I WILL FIND A WAY TO *END* THIS!

KRAK

'MANDA, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

YOU SAVED ME-- AGAIN.

MY PLEASURE-- ALWAYS.

MARGALI WOULD HAVE LET HER CREATURE KILL US BOTH.

BUT NEVER AGAIN. I'LL SEE TO THAT.

KURT, HER PORTAL'S STILL *OPEN*--!

CAN YOU REVERSE HER SPELL?

NOT FROM *THIS SIDE*. I DON'T HAVE HER STOLEN KNOWLEDGE, I'M NOT SURE HOW.

THEN WE *CROSS OVER* AND DO IT FROM THE *REALM BEYOND*.

KURT, I'M *SCARED*. ONCE WE CROSS, THERE'S NO COMING BACK.

NO NEED TO BE AFRAID, AMANDA. I'M RIGHT H--

KURT!

THERE'S A *BARRIER!*

BAMF

IT WON'T LET ME *PASS.*

I WAS AFRAID OF THAT. YOU *CHOSE* TO LEAVE HEAVEN, KURT.

THAT HAS *CONSEQUENCES.*

WHATEVER IT TAKES--

--I'LL FIND A WAY TO *WIN!*

KURT, *NO!*

YOU'LL KILL YOURSELF! ERASE YOUR EXISTENCE FROM EVERY PLANE!

I WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN TO THE MAN I *LOVE.*

IF YOU TRULY WANT TO SAVE ME, PROVE YOURSELF A *HERO.*

AND FIND YOUR WAY BACK TO ME SOMEHOW.

'MANDA!

HOWEVER LONG IT TAKES...

DON'T DO THIS--

...I'LL BE HERE.

--I BEG YOU!

FWOOOOOMMMMM

AMANDA!

DON'T LEAVE ME.

HEY, WHAT'S WITH THE BAD GUYS?

THEY ALL JUST VANISHED.

THE BATTLE'S OVER. EVERYONE, CHECK THE DAMAGE, TAKE CARE OF ANY WOUNDED.

KURT, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

NO, PSYLOCKE--FAR FROM IT.

I MAY HAVE SAVED THE WORLD--

--BUT I HAVE LOST MY *HEART*.

TO BE CONTINUED!

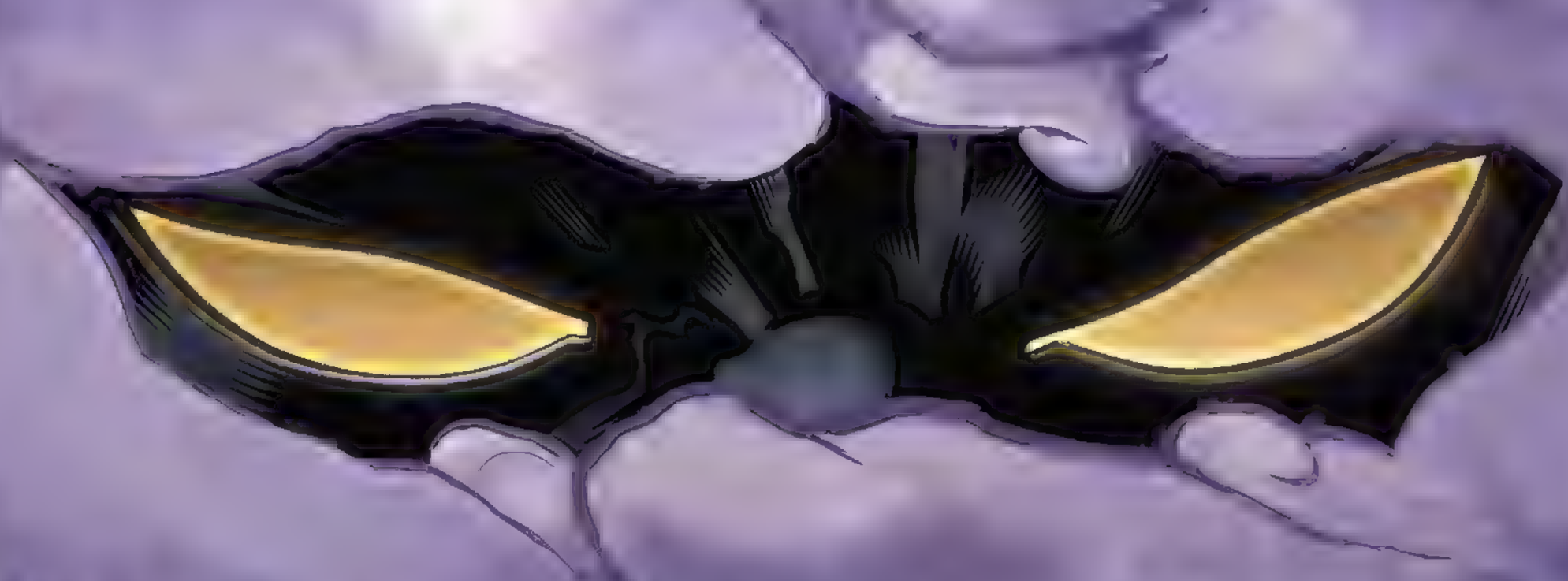
NIGHTCRAWLER

CLAREMONT NAUCK ROSENBERG

PREVIOUSLY IN...

NIGHTCRAWLER

RECENTLY RETURNED FROM THE AFTERLIFE, NIGHTCRAWLER HAS SLOWLY BEEN REBUILDING THE LIFE HE LEFT BEHIND. UNFORTUNATELY, HIS RECENT REUNION WITH AMANDA SEFTON RESULTED IN THEIR ADOPTED MOTHER, MARGALI SZARDOS, ASSAULTING THE JEAN GREY SCHOOL WITH AN ARMY OF TRIMEGA ROBOTS. THOUGH NIGHTCRAWLER AND THE X-MEN CURBED HER ATTEMPT TO ENTER THE REALMS OF THE AFTERLIFE, AMANDA WAS LOST, SUCKED INTO HER MOTHER'S PORTAL AS IT WAS CLOSING. SUFFERING FROM THE LOSS OF HIS LOVE, NIGHTCRAWLER FINDS HIMSELF IN NEED OF A NEW PURPOSE AND DIRECTION.



CHRIS CLAREMONT
WRITER

TODD NAUCK
ARTIST

RACHELLE ROSENBERG
COLOR ARTIST

VC'S JOE SABINO
LETTERER

JAMIE McKELVIE WITH MATTHEW WILSON
COVER ARTISTS

XANDER JAROWEY
ASSISTANT EDITOR

DANIEL KETCHUM
EDITOR

MIKE MARTS
X-MEN GROUP EDITOR

AXEL ALONSO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

JOE QUESADA
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

ALAN FINE
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

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WHEN I FIRST CAME TO CHARLES XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS AND JOINED THE X-MEN, I KNEW NOTHING OF ***BASEBALL.***

BACK HOME IN GERMANY, OUR SPORT WAS WHAT AMERICANS CALL SOCCER. I WAS VERY GOOD.

BUT TO MY SURPRISE, I QUICKLY DISCOVERED I WAS EVEN BETTER AT THIS NEW GAME.

BEST OF ALL, BEING A ***TELEPORTER...***

...I DON'T NEED A *TEAM.*

BAMF

BAMF

I CAN PLAY *ALL* THE POSITIONS BY MYSELF.

KRAK

WELL, *ALMOST* ALL.

THE *BAMFS* DO THEIR BEST TO HELP.

NOW COMES THEIR REAL TEST AS I FIELD THE BALL...

BAMF

...MAKE MY THROW TO SECOND BASE...

...AND 'PORT BACK TO THE BASE PATH.

BAMF

BAMF

MY COMPANIONS HAVE A FAIR CHANCE TO TAG ME OUT...

...EVEN THOUGH THEIR STYLE OF PLAY IS SOMEWHAT...UNIQUE.

IT'S GOING TO BE CLOSE!

THE REFEREE CALLS IT, *MEIN FREUNDES.*

SAFE...BY A HEARTBEAT!

THE MEMORIES COME AS NATURALLY TO ME AS BREATHING--

--SO MANY JOYOUS AFTERNOONS HORSING AROUND ON THE GREAT LAWN BEHIND THE MANSION.

WE *X-MEN* WEREN'T RISKING OUR LIVES BATTLING EVIL AND SAVING THE WORLD. WE WERE JUST THE BEST OF FRIENDS, HAVING FUN TOGETHER.

AND IF, OCCASIONALLY, A FLY BALL WENT A TAD TOO HIGH AND THE FIELDER CHASING AFTER IT GOT TO BLOW A KISS TO *AIR FORCE ONE*--

--WELL, THE *PRESIDENT* DIDN'T SEEM TO MIND THE LIPSTICK ON HIS WINDOW.

THAT WAS THE KIND OF WORLD WE LIVED IN.

WE WERE A TEAM.

WE WERE A *FAMILY.*

NOW, TO ME, ALL THAT HAS *CHANGED.*

SO MANY OF US HAVE GONE OUR OWN--*SEPARATE*--WAYS, DOWN ROADS I NEVER WOULD HAVE IMAGINED POSSIBLE.

TODAY IT SEEMS THAT PEOPLE WHO WERE ONCE CLOSER TO ME THAN MY HEART HAVE BECOME *STRANGERS.*

WORST OF ALL, I DON'T KNOW HOW TO WIN THEM BACK.

STUPID GAME.

STUPID *MAN*-- FOR THINKING HE COULD TURN BACK TIME.

MR. WAGNER?

I DON'T WANT TO PLAY ANYMORE.

STOP PESTERING ME, *BAMFS*, I'M TIRED OF THIS FOOLISHNESS.

LEAVE ME ALONE!

HEY, ELF, IS THAT ANY WAY TO TALK TO *FRIENDS?*

JEAN--

--BUT YOU'RE *DEAD!*

SO WERE YOU, KURT, BUT LOOK AT YOU NOW.

THERE ARE MORE **MYSTERIES** TO CREATION THAN EVEN THE **X-MEN** KNOW.

YOU JUST HAVE TO HAVE **FAITH--**

--IN THE **MAN** YOU ARE, AND THE PATH THAT LIES AHEAD.

EVEN AS I "HEAR" THE WORDS, THE IMAGE BEFORE ME FADES AWAY.

JUST LIKE A MOMENT FROM A *DREAM.*

FORGIVE ME, MY FRIENDS.

I WAS FEELING *SORRY* FOR MYSELF--

--WHEN IN FACT I SHOULD BE THANKING THE *ALMIGHTY...*

...FOR GIVING ME A *SECOND CHANCE.*

THIS IS A BIG DAY FOR ME.

PART OF THE REASON I WENT OUTSIDE TO PLAY SOME SUNRISE BASEBALL--

--WAS TO DEAL WITH AN ATTACK OF *NERVES.*

THE *BAMFS* DO THEIR BEST TO MAKE ME SMILE, AND IT WORKS.

THAT STILL DOESN'T SLOW THE BEATING OF MY HEART.

LEADING A TEAM OF HEROES INTO BATTLE IS EASY.

BUT THESE AREN'T X-MEN, ACTIVE OR POTENTIAL.

THEY'RE NOT EVEN THE OLD STUDENT TEAM OF NEW MUTANTS.

THEY'RE JUST ORDINARY KIDS...

...WHO HAPPEN TO HAVE SUPER-POWERS...

...TRYING TO FIND WAYS TO HELP THEM LIVE "NORMAL" LIVES.

THE PROBLEM IS, I'M NOT SURE THAT'S EVEN *POSSIBLE.*

REGARDLESS, I'LL DO MY BEST TO TRY.

I PRAY YOU'RE WATCHING OVER ME, 'MANDA.

WISH ME LUCK.

SAME GOES FOR YOU, *BAMFS*--AND ONE MORE THING:

THIS IS MY FIRST DAY. IT'S *IMPORTANT* TO ME.

DON'T MUCK IT UP.

GUTEN MORGEN, DR. REYES. GUTEN MORGEN, HANK.
DON'T YOU LOOK SHARP, KURT.
JUST TRYING TO MAKE A GOOD FIRST IMPRESSION.
COFFEE'S FRESH, MY FRIEND--
--HAVE A CUP.
DANKE-- IT SMELLS DELICIOUS.
MY OWN BREW.
I JUST WANT TO SAY, KURT, I OWE YOU--FOR HELPING SAVE ORORO AND ME.
THE DEBT IS TO AMANDA.
SHE'S THE ONE WHO BROUGHT YOU BACK FROM OBLIVION AND MADE YOU BOTH WHOLE.
SHE SAVED US ALL.
I'M TRULY SORRY, KURT.
I KNOW HOW HARD IT IS TO LOSE SOMEONE YOU LOVE.
I CHOOSE TO FOLLOW THE PATH OF HOPE.
'MANDA-- AND FATE-- MAY SURPRISE US YET.
A MAN OF FAITH. I LIKE THAT.
A MAN OF FAITH, HANK, WHO NEEDS A JOB.
WHAT CAN I DO?
I DUNNO, WHAT CAN YOU DO?
SAVE WORLDS, DO TRAPEZE ACTS, SWASHBUCKLING SWORDPLAY--
--I'M AFRAID IT'S A LIMITED REPERTOIRE.
I SUGGEST YOU AUDIT SOME CLASSES, EVALUATE THE STUDENTS, SEE WHAT THEY NEED--
--APPLY THAT TO WHAT YOU HAVE TO OFFER.
WE'LL TAKE IT FROM THERE.

AND JUST LIKE THAT, MY NEW ADVENTURE BEGINS.

PRETTY COOL PLACE, HUH?

CERTAINLY DIFFERENT FROM THE SCHOOL I REMEMBER, RACHEL.

CLICHÉ THOUGH IT MAY SOUND...

...THERE ARE SO *MANY* STUDENTS.

IT'S A BRAVE NEW WORLD, ELF.

AND *SCARY*.

I THINK I MAKE THE STUDENTS NERVOUS.

SOME OF THEM, FOR SURE. OTHERS, NOT SO MUCH.

SAME AS YOU DID THE X-MEN WHEN YOU FIRST MET.

IN TIME, YOU WON 'EM ALL OVER. SAME APPLIES TO THE KIDS.

YOU MAKE IT SOUND SO EASY.

IT CAN BE AS HARD-- OR AS EASY-- AS YOU CHOOSE TO MAKE IT.

IT'S *YOUR* CALL, NIGHTCRAWLER.

YOU SOUND TOTALLY LIKE YOUR *MOTHER*-- JEAN.

SHE'S A TOUGH ACT TO FOLLOW.

BUT I PREFER TO FOCUS ON WHAT'S TANGIBLE.

YOU NEED A JOB.

THE *DANGER ROOM*?

I HAVE AN IDEA...

I HAVEN'T WORN THIS TRAINING UNIFORM IN *AGES.*

NO WORRIES-- IT LOOKS *ALMOST* AS GREAT ON YOU AS IT DOES ON ME.

GET YOUR GAME FACE ON, KURT.

HERE COME THE KIDS.

GOOD AFTERNOON, STUDENTS; YOU MAY CALL ME *NIGHTCRAWLER.*

HERE IN THE DANGER ROOM, YOU WILL LEARN HOW TO PROPERLY USE AND *CONTROL* YOUR MUTANT ABILITIES.

WITHIN THESE WALLS, WE CAN CREATE ANY ENVIRONMENT IMAGINABLE.

DON'T BOTHER TELLING YOURSELF IT'S *FAKE--*

--BECAUSE IT ISN'T.

THOSE ARE *SENTINELS!*

WHERE'D THEY COME FROM?

AS FAR AS YOU'RE CONCERNED, THE CONSTRUCTS ARE TOTALLY REAL.

BEST GYM CLASS *EVER!*

UH, *CESSILY,* SENTINELS *KILL* MUTANTS.

WHO CARES, IT'S JUST AN *ILLUSION.*

I DUNNO, *RICO*--IT SURE *FEELS* LEGIT!

THEY HAVE DOUBTS.

BIG MISTAKE, KIDS.

YOU'LL HAVE TO LEARN YOUR LESSON THE *HARD WAY--*

--WHICH MEANS WE VISIT ONE OF MY FAVORITE WORLDS.

KURT'S THE HERO; I'M HIS SIDEKICK.

LEADING THE BADDIES IS ONE OF THE MOST *SINISTER* CREATURES IN ALL CREATION.

SHE LOOKS LIKE *EMMA FROST!*

THIS IS NO GAME, BABIES.

YIELD-- AND BECOME OUR SLAVES--

--OR SUFFER A FATE FAR WORSE THAN DEATH!

WE HAVE A BETTER IDEA...

SAVE YOURSELF A LOTTA PAIN--

--AND SURRENDER TO *US!*

DON'T JUST STAND THERE, KIDS.

YOU HAVE *POWERS* OF YOUR OWN.

NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO USE 'EM!

C'MON, *HISAKO*-- YOU HEARD *MS. GREY.*

LET'S SHOW 'EM WHAT WE CAN DO!

HISAKO ICHIKI (ARMOR) MANIFESTS A SUPER-STRONG EXOSKELETON OF PSIONIC ENERGY.

CESSILY KINCAID (MERCURY) IS MADE OF LIQUID METAL.

ARMOR HAMMERS HER ADVERSARIES, WHILE MERCURY SLICES THEIR WEAPONS TO BITS.

THEY MAKE A GOOD TEAM. I WOULD EXPECT NO LESS FROM TWO OF OUR MOST EXPERIENCED STUDENTS.

THE BOYS GIVE A FAIR ACCOUNT OF THEMSELVES AS WELL--

--ESPECIALLY RICO.

I'LL TAKE CARE OF MS. FROST.

ONCE SHE'S BEATEN, WE WIN THE GAME--

--HEY?!

FOOLISH BOY-- WHAT MAKES YOU THINK WE PAY THE SLIGHTEST ATTENTION TO YOUR RULES?

YOU LOSE AGAINST US, YOU PAY THE *ULTIMATE* PRICE!

RICO, LOOK OUT!

DANGER ROOM, FREEZE THE PROGRAM!

THIS TRAINING SESSION'S ON HOLD--FOR THE MOMENT.

YES, THESE ARE ALL ILLUSIONS BUT DON'T LET THAT FOOL YOU.

THE ROOM IS *TESTING* YOU, EVALUATING YOUR CAPABILITIES, PUSHING YOU TO YOUR *LIMITS.*

THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HERE AND *REALITY* IS THAT THE ROOM WILL GIVE YOU ANOTHER CHANCE.

NEVER DO THE OBVIOUS, RICO--DIRECT ASSAULTS HARDLY EVER WORK.

FAR BETTER TO CATCH YOUR ADVERSARY BY SURPRISE--LIKE *SO!*

THAT'S WHY THIS IS CALLED THE "*DANGER*" ROOM.

WE TRAIN HERE AGAINST SOME OF THE DEADLIEST ADVERSARIES IMAGINABLE.

BY DOING SO, WE ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP A STRATEGY TO DEFEAT THEM.

ALONG THE WAY, WE OCCASIONALLY GET HURT.

BUT IN THE END, WITH THE ROOM'S HELP, WE ALMOST ALWAYS FIND A WAY TO *WIN.*

SO, LET'S START AGAIN AND THIS TIME--

--FIND WAYS TO DO *BETTER.*

MARYLAND.

ROWSDOWER'S BAR GRILLE

BAR GRILLE

LOCATION NEUTRALIZED, *KILLIAN.*

NARWAL
NORTH AMERICAN ROBOTIC WEAPON ADVANCEMENT LABORATOR

MINIMAL BOOTY, I FEAR. HARDLY WORTH THE ENERGY IT'LL TAKE T' *TRANSMAT* 'EM.

TRUE THAT, *BROADSIDE*, BUT IT'S STILL *PROFIT*, NONETHELESS.

SEND 'EM ON THEIR WAY.

POOR PICKINGS, ALL AROUND. IF THIS SLOP IS WHAT THESE YOKELS DRINK, THE PLACE HAS NO RIGHT T' CALL ITSELF A *BAR.*

DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY, *BESS.*

REMEMBER, WE'RE HERE ON A *MISSION.*

I SUGGEST YOU REMIND YOUR CREW OF WHERE THEY ARE, KILLIAN.

THIS PLANET IS NOT TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY. THE PROWESS OF ITS DEFENDERS IS KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE OMNIVERSE.

I AM A MERCHANT. I AM NOT HERE TO START A WAR, MERELY TO ACQUIRE A VALUABLE COMMODITY.

AND SPEAKING OF PROFIT, BROADSIDE, IF YOU WOULD KINDLY DISPOSE OF THESE PATHETIC WRETCHES.

OH, STOP YER WAILIN', IT AIN'T LIKE I'M GONNA **KILL** YA.

ALTHOUGH, CONSIDERIN' THE FATE IN STORE FOR Y'ALL...

...Y'MAY WISH I HAD!

SUCH A PUNY, PATHETIC, **ORDINARY** SPECIES--

--HOWEVER DID THEY SPAWN SUCH FORMIDABLE **DEFENDERS?**

PERHAPS **THIS** CREATURE WILL HELP PROVIDE AN ANSWER.

HER NAME IS **ZIGGY KARST.**

SHE IS, QUITE SIMPLY, A **GENIUS--**

--FOR WHOM THE PAN-DIMENSIONAL AUGURIES PREDICT AN EXTRAORDINARY FUTURE.

I MEAN TO **CONTROL** THAT FUTURE.

SHE IS EMPLOYED AT ONE OF THE MOST HEAVILY GUARDED *RESEARCH* FACILITIES ON THIS CONTINENT.

I WANT NO EXCUSES, I WANT THAT *CHILD.*

YOU'LL HAVE HER, *VOGE.*

ON THAT, YOU'VE THE WORD OF THE *CRIMSON PIRATES!*

THE JEAN GREY SCHOOL.

AFTER THAT SLIGHTLY ROCKY START, THE CLASS WENT WELL.

A NUMBER OF THE STUDENTS HAVE AN APTITUDE FOR THE LIFE OF A *SUPER HERO.*

I WISH I COULD CONSIDER THAT A *GOOD* THING.

MY PATH IS SET--

--BUT THEIR LIVES SHOULD OFFER MORE *FULFILLING* POSSIBILITIES.

AT DAY'S END, THOUGH, I DISCOVER A *GIFT* FROM *ORORO*, A GESTURE OF THANKS:

THE X-MEN'S OLD *SR-71X BLACKBIRD*, MY FAVORITE AIRCRAFT.

I'VE BEEN WORKING ON IT ALL NIGHT.

KURT
THE BLACKBIRD IS YOURS.
HAVE FUN, LITTLE BROTHER!
♡-ORORO

ALMOST FINISHED, *BAMFS!*

A LITTLE MORE WORK AND WE CAN TAKE THE *'BIRD* FOR A TEST FLIGHT.

COULD SOMEONE PLEASE HAND ME THE *HEX-RATCHET?*

HERE Y'GO, SIR.

THANKS VERY MUCH.

?!?

BAMFS DON'T TALK--

--WHO--?!

RICO!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING UP SO LATE?

I DON'T NEED MUCH SLEEP, SO I DID WHAT I DO MOST NIGHTS--

--I GO EXPLORING.

WICKED-COOL PLANE, SIR.

YOU DON'T LIKE RULES?

A LOTTA TIMES, THEY'RE TOO HARD A FIT.

THAT COULD GET YOU INTO TROUBLE.

STORY OF MY LIFE.

BUT IT'S KINDA HARD T' BE LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE WHEN YOU LOOK LIKE ME.

I CERTAINLY KNOW HOW THAT FEELS.

I'M TAKING THE *BLACKBIRD* OUT FOR A TEST FLIGHT--

--CARE TO COME ALONG?

TOTALLY *COOL!*

WHAT D'YOU THINK?

FLIES GREAT--FOR SUCH AN OLD DESIGN.

...DID I SAY SOMETHING WRONG?

APPEARANCES, YOUNGSTER, CAN BE DECEIVING.

THE SR-71X IS FAR MORE THAN A SIMPLE PLANE.

YOU WANT PROOF, LOOK OUT THE WINDOW.

WHERE'S THE *SKY?*

BELOW US. WE'RE FLYING *SUB-ORBIT*, ABOUT A HUNDRED KLICKS UP.

WOW!

THAT'S JUST THE START. THE POWER SYSTEMS ARE CAPABLE OF INTER-PLANETARY, INTER-STELLAR, EVEN INTER-DIMENSIONAL FLIGHT.

WHEREVER THE X-MEN HAVE GONE, THE SR-71X HELPED PAVE THE WAY.

THAT'S THE *INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION!*

I'VE DREAMED OF GOING THERE--BUT IT'LL NEVER HAPPEN.

WHY NOT?

JUST *LOOK* AT ME.

PEOPLE SEE ME, THEY SEE A *MONSTER.*

CARE TO FLY THE PLANE?

YOU *BET!*

IT'S HARD TO BLAZE A TRAIL. BELIEVE ME, I KNOW.

BUT IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE. YOUR EFFORT WILL MAKE THINGS EASIER FOR THOSE WHO FOLLOW.

AND YOUR PATH WILL LEAD YOU TO WONDERS--AND ADVENTURES--YOU NEVER DREAMED OF.

THAT IS WHY WE'RE HERE, I THINK--TO SHOW THE WAY.

AND PROTECT THOSE WHO FOLLOW.

ANYTHING, *ORORO*, YOU KNOW THAT.

KURT, I NEED A FAVOR.

WE ARE REGISTERING A NEW MUTANT CONTACT, SURPRISINGLY POWERFUL AND IN YOUR VICINITY. CAN YOU CHECK IT OUT?

READY FOR AN ADVENTURE, RICO?

ABSOLUTELY!

WE'RE ON OUR WAY, *STORM!*

NARWAL.

ZAP ZAP

SHABAM

NO KILLING, SEADOGS.

WE WANT EVERYONE ALIVE-- THERE'S NO PROFIT TO BE MADE FROM CORPSES.

THAT GOES FOR YOU, TOO, BLOODY BESS!

YOU BOYS RUIN ALL MY FUN.

SAVE YOUR DEATHSTRIKES FOR THOSE THAT DESERVE IT, BESS.

THESE FOOLS MEAN NOTHING--

"--THE QUARRY THAT MATTERS IS THE GIRL!"

NEXT: DEATH STALKS THE MAIDEN!

NIGHTCRAWLER

MARVEL

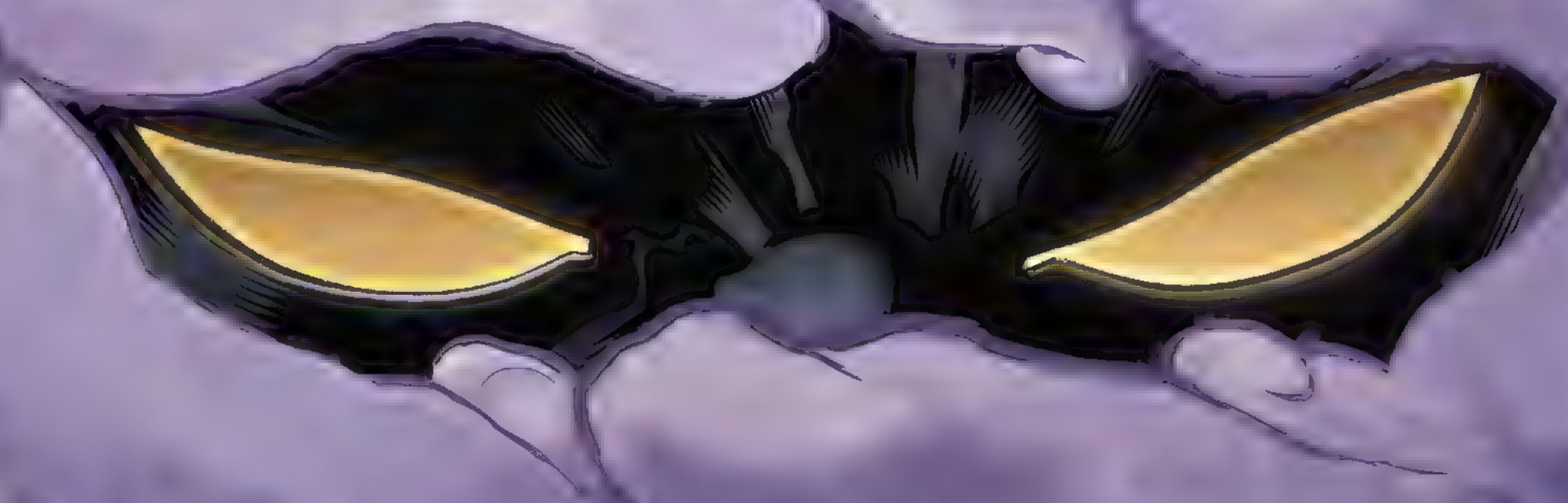
CLAREMONT
NAUCK
ROSENBERG

006

PREVIOUSLY IN...

NIGHTCRAWLER

RECENTLY RETURNING FROM THE AFTERLIFE, NIGHTCRAWLER HAS BEEN SEARCHING FOR HIS PLACE IN A WORLD SO DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE HE LEFT BEHIND. HOWEVER, WITH SOME HELP FROM RACHEL GREY, HE MAY HAVE FOUND A NEW PURPOSE IN TEACHING THE NEW GENERATION OF MUTANTS AT THE JEAN GREY SCHOOL FOR HIGHER LEARNING. QUICKLY FORMING A BOND WITH THE YOUNG MUTANT RICO, A.K.A. SCORPION BOY, NIGHTCRAWLER BROUGHT HIM ALONG ON A TEST FLIGHT OF THE BLACKBIRD, ONLY TO BE INTERRUPTED BY A REQUEST FROM STORM–TO SEEK OUT AND INVESTIGATE A NEW MUTANT SIGNATURE. LITTLE DOES HE KNOW THAT HE HAS SOME DANGEROUS COMPETITION IN THIS RACE TO THE NEW MUTANT–THE CRIMSON PIRATES!



CHRIS CLAREMONT
WRITER

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ALAN FINE
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

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ABOARD THE X-MEN'S SR-71X BLACKBIRD, CRUISING ALONG THE EDGE OF SPACE...

KURT, I NEED A FAVOR.

ANYTHING, **ORORO**, YOU KNOW THAT.

WE'RE REGISTERING A NEW **MUTANT** SIGNATURE, SURPRISINGLY POWERFUL, AND IN YOUR VICINITY. CAN YOU CHECK IT OUT?

READY FOR AN ADVENTURE, **RICO?**

ABSOLUTELY!

I'M AFRAID THIS WON'T BE AS EASY AS IT SOUNDS, MY FRIEND.

WHY AM I NOT SURPRISED?

OUR MUTANT WORKS AT NARWAL-- AN ADVANCED WEAPONS RESEARCH FACILITY.

YOU CAN EXPECT APPROPRIATE LEVELS OF **SECURITY.**

NOT A PROBLEM.

ANY SPECIFICS ON THE MUTANT?

THIS IS WHAT **HANK'S** BEEN ABLE TO GLEAN:

HER NAME IS **ZIGGY KARST.**

HIS BACK-CHANNEL SOURCES SUGGEST THAT SHE'S A PRODIGIOUS INTELLECT. AN ENTIRE WING AT NARWAL IS DEVOTED TO HER RESEARCH.

IF SHE'S THAT *SMART*, WHY WOULD SHE GO BACK TO SCHOOL?

YOU AND I BOTH KNOW, RICO, THAT THE JEAN GREY SCHOOL HAS MUCH MORE THAN JUST *TRADITIONAL ACADEMICS* TO OFFER.

PERHAPS MISS KARST WOULD ACCEPT AN INVITATION TO SPEND TIME AMONGST FELLOW MUTANTS.

WE'RE ON OUR WAY, ORORO.

SADDLE UP, YOUNGSTER. TIME TO GO ON OUR *ADVENTURE!*

HEY, WAIT A MINUTE-- I THOUGHT YOU COULDN'T *TELEPORT* SOMEWHERE YOU'VE NEVER BEEN!

THAT'S WHY THE *BAMFS* LEAVE FIRST.

BAMF

BAMF

BAMF

BAMF

BAMF

BAMF

BAMF

THEY MARK THE TRAIL.

I FOLLOW THEIR LEAD.

OCCASIONALLY, THOUGH, THAT PLAN LEAVES SOMETHING TO BE DESIRED.

WEAPONS ON STUN, *PIRATES!*

WE EARN NO PROFIT FROM *CORPSES!*

THE FACILITY'S UNDER *ATTACK!*

LIKE I'VE SAID BEFORE, *KILLIAN--*

--YOU TAKE THE *FUN* OUT OF *EVERYTHING!*

WHO *ARE* THESE GUYS?

FREE-BOOTERS, CALLING THEMSELVES THE *CRIMSON PIRATES!* KILLIAN IS THEIR *LEADER.*

THEY'RE SHOOTING-- *EVERYONE!*

BURNING THEM ALL TO SMOKE--

--RIGHT BEFORE OUR EYES!

I'M SORRY, RICO. YOU'RE A CHILD. YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE, OR BE A PART OF THIS--

I'M NOT LEAVING YOU!

I CAN HELP YOU! WE CAN SAVE LIVES!

CAN YOU DO THAT? FOR *ME?*

FOR *THEM?*

I--

--I'M *SCARED--*

--BUT I'LL *TRY.*

I'M *PROUD* OF YOU, LAD.

YOUR JOB'S TO GET THE SURVIVORS OUT OF HERE. THE BAMFS WILL HELP.

LEAVE THE REST TO *ME.*

AND HAVE NO FEAR--

--YOU'VE MY WORD, I'LL BRING YOU HOME *SAFE.*

THE BIG ONE IS *BROADSIDE*-- POSSESSING MORE MUSCLES THAN IS DECENT...

...BUT SADLY NOT A PROPORTIONATE *INTELLECT.*

HIS WEAPONS SEEM TO BE DOING THE BULK OF THE *VAPORIZING.*

SO, IF I CAN TAKE *HIM* OUT--

TRYIN' TA CATCH ME BY *SURPRISE*, ARE YE, Y'SCUT?!

NOT EVEN IN Y'R *DREAMS!*

OHWFF!

THE MOMENT I HIT THE FLOOR, I'M SWARMED BY *SEA-DOGS.*

THEY'RE OUT FOR *BLOOD.*

SUITS ME FINE!

I LIKE A GOOD FIGHT.

THE MORE IMPOSSIBLE THE ODDS, THE BETTER.

BUT THE SEA-DOGS ARE JUST KILLIAN'S *GRUNTS.* I NEED TO FIND A WAY TO TAKE DOWN THE *PRINCIPALS.*

HOLD 'IM FAST, Y'SCUTS.

ALL I NEED IS *ONE SHOT!*

DEVIL TAKE IT, THERE'S MORE WHERE THEY CAME FROM.

>?<

VORP

BAMF

>!<

POOFDA

ALL RIGHT THEN, THAT TAKES CARE OF--

WHERE'D THESE *RATSPAWN* COME FROM?!

MY-- LEGS!

YANK

THEY MOVE TOO *FAST*--

--BOUNCIN' IN AN' OUT OF THE SHADOWS--

--TOO QUICK F'R ME TO *SWAT!*

MY *TRANSMAT* GUNS!

BAMF

BAMF

BAMF

BAMF

MY MOUTH'S SO DRY--

--MY HEART WON'T SLOW DOWN--

--THIS ISN'T THE *DANGER ROOM*--

--THESE ARE *REAL PEOPLE!*

AND IT'S UP TO ME TO *SAVE* THEM!

WAS NIGHTCRAWLER *CRAZY*, WHAT COULD HE HAVE BEEN THINKING?

THIS IS *WAY* OUT OF MY LEAGUE.

BUT THERE'S NO ONE ELSE TO EVEN *TRY.*

OH MY GOD, ANOTHER ONE!

IT'S SOME KIND OF *MONSTER!*

BACK OFF, CREEPS!

BUT--HE'S *PROTECTING* US!

LEAVE THESE PEOPLE ALONE!

HEAR THAT, MATES?!

SOUNDS LIKE ONE O' THESE SCUTS IS WILLIN' TO PUT UP A FIGHT!

TIME HE LEARNED HIS LESSON!

HE'S-- FIGHTING FOR US.

CAN'T LET THEM *SCARE* ME--

--JUST PRETEND IT'S ANOTHER DANGER ROOM CLASS.

I DID GREAT BEATING THE BAD GUYS THERE.

I'LL DO EVEN BETTER HERE!

I--DID IT!

C'MON, PEOPLE, DON'T JUST STAND THERE!

LET'S GET OUTTA HERE.

DON'T SLOW DOWN, DON'T LOOK BACK.

GET OUT THE DOOR--

--HEAD ACROSS THE PARKING LOT TOWARD THE TREE LINE.

THERE AREN'T THAT MANY BAD GUYS. I DON'T THINK THEY'LL FIND YOU.

ONCE YOU GET CLEAR, YOU CAN CALL FOR *HELP*.

BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?

MY TEACHER'S INSIDE.

THAT'S A *KID*?

BAMF

I SAY, WE'VE ALL HAD *ENOUGH* OF THIS FOOLISHNESS.

YOU'RE STILL *HERE*?!

CONSIDER ME *VERY* HARD TO KILL.

CALL AN *END* TO THIS, KILLIAN--

--BEFORE *I* SEE IF THE *SAME* CAN BE SAID FOR YOU!

BIG WORDS, CUTIE.

BUT THAT'S A WHOLE LOT EASIER SAID THAN DONE.

THAT *VOICE*-- WHY DOES IT SOUND SO *FAMILIAR*?

WORRY ABOUT IT LATER, DOLT--

--AND THANK YOUR LUCKY STARS SHE DIDN'T HAVE A *GUN*!

IF YOU LIKE YOUR LIFE, MY FRIEND...

...MAKE THINGS *EASY* FOR YOURSELF AND *GIVE UP*.

MY THOUGHTS, PRECISELY.

SHE'S *VERY GOOD*.

I CAN'T AFFORD THE SLIGHTEST *MISSTEP*.

SHOULD'A LISTENED TO ME.

ONLY A MATTER OF TIME NOW.

DON'T GET COCKY.

I WAS *BORN* COCKY.

NO PROFIT IN SLAUGHTER.

LAST CHANCE.

YOU SURRENDER, YOU LIVE.

WHY TREAT ME DIFFERENTLY FROM EVERYONE ELSE?

NOBODY'S DIED YET, THEY'RE JUST A LITTLE *BANGED UP*.

I CUT YOU WITH MY SWORD, THAT OPTION'S GONE.

TELEPORT GUNS!

YUP!

THAT'S *PRECISELY* WHAT I WAS HOPING TO HEAR.

YOU'RE VERY GOOD, BESS.

BLOODY H--!

BUT AS MY *BEST FRIEND* LOVES TO SAY:

...I'M *BETTER!*

I GUESS *MARINES* AREN'T SO HOT WHEN IT COMES TO FIGHTING *SUPER-BADDIES.*

LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO SAVE MYSELF!

HOPE I'VE GOT ENOUGH MODULES TO DO THE TRICK.

ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT.

WHOA!

GOT MY *AVATAR--*

--NOW TO PUT HIM TO *WORK!*

HEY!

DON'T BREAK MY *CONCENTRATION!*

I GOT 'ER, MATES!

SPLUNK-A-SPLUNK

YOU'RE *DONE,* GIRL.

NO!

SOMEONE-- *HELP!*

HAVE NO FEAR--

--RICO'S HERE!

ARE YOU-- WEARING A COSTUME?

I AM. BECAUSE I'M AN X-MAN!

HE DOESN'T SOUND MUCH OLDER THAN ME.

HIS PHYSIOLOGY IS--MAGNIFICENT!

HE MUST BE A MUTANT-- BUT IN HIS CASE, THAT'S TAKING THE CONCEPT TO A TOTALLY UNIQUE LEVEL.

AND HE'S FIGHTING FOR ME.

THAT'S SO COOL!

SMART MOVE, SLUG-DOGS, RUN FOR YOUR MASTER...

...WITH YOUR TAILS BETWEEN YOUR LEGS.

YOU WANT MORE OF THE SAME, YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME.

YOU OKAY?

JUST FINE-- NOW.

I'M ZIGGY.

I'M RICO.

I'M HERE TO SAVE--

--YOU!?!

OH NO OH NO OH NO OH NO OH NO

ZORCH

YOU CANNOT SAVE HER, BOY.

THE CHILD'S FATE WAS *PRE-ORDAINED.*

AS IS *YOURS!*

YOU *KILLED* HER!

I'LL KILL *YOU!*

MANY HAVE TRIED.

YET HERE I STAND.

DON'T FRET ABOUT THE GIRL.

YOU'RE ABOUT TO *JOIN* HER.

I DON'T *THINK* SO.

AND THIS TIME, WHEN I PUT YOU ON THE FLOOR--

--STAY THERE!

KRAK

ARROGANT FOOL--

--YOU'VE NOT WON YET!

I GOT IT, SIR!

WANNA BET?

RICO, GRAB HIS PISTOL!

IMPRESSIVE ARMOR, KILLIAN.

NEXT TIME, THOUGH, PROTECT YOUR JAW!

I TOOK CARE OF THE GUN.

HE WON'T USE IT TO KILL ANYONE ELSE!

HEY, WAIT-A-MINUTE!

PROFESSOR WAGNER, ZIGGY'S SILVER MODULES-- THEY'RE STILL MOVING!

I'M A BIT *BUSY* RIGHT NOW, RICO. BE WITH YOU IN A MINUTE.

NO, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. I'VE SEEN ZIGGY CONTROL THEM. IF THEY'RE MOVING LIKE THIS...

...SHE HAS TO BE *ALIVE!*

AND THAT CONFIRMS WHAT *BLOODY BESS* WAS SAYING WHEN WE FOUGHT.

YOU DIDN'T KILL *ANYONE*, DID YOU, KILLIAN?

THOSE WERE *TELEPORT* BEAMS.

PAN-DIMENSIONAL *TRANSMATS.*

YES, THEY'RE ALL *ALIVE*--BUT THERE'S NO GOING TO THEIR RESCUE.

YOU'D BE A FOOL TO EVEN *TRY!*

THEN CALL ME A *FOOL!*

BUT KNOW THIS, PIRATE. I'M AN *X-MAN.*

YOU'VE FOUGHT US BEFORE. YOU, ABOVE ALL, SHOULD KNOW THAT REGARDLESS OF THE ODDS...

...WE *ALWAYS* FIND A WAY TO *WIN!*

YOU'VE DONE VERY WELL, RICO. I'M *PROUD* OF YOU.

I NEED YOU TO KEEP THE SURVIVORS SAFE AND THESE PRISONERS SECURE UNTIL I RETURN.

BUT *HOW?* I SMASHED HIS GUN.

KILLIAN'S, YES. BUT THE *BAMFS* STILL HAVE BROADSIDE'S.

ALERT *STORM.* IT WOULDN'T HURT TO HAVE HER ON-SITE AS BACKUP.

BUT PROFESSOR, SUPPOSE YOU'RE WRONG?

THEN THE JOKE, MY FRIEND, WILL BE ON...

ZORCH

>*<

LOOKS LIKE I WASN'T WRONG.

I RECOGNIZE THIS PLACE--THIS OPERATION'S RUN BY *TULLAMORE VOGE.*

AND HERE IS HIS PERSONAL RECEPTION COMMITTEE TO *WELCOME* ME.

TRUTH IS, I WISH I WAS DOING THIS TO *HIM!*

BUT THAT SATISFACTION WILL HAVE TO WAIT.

THWAK

WHAT'S IMPORTANT TONIGHT IS GETTING THESE PRISONERS SAFELY HOME.

DON'T BE AFRAID, MY FRIENDS.

I'M CALLED *NIGHTCRAWLER.*

I'M A *SUPER HERO.* I'M HERE TO *SAVE* YOU!

I'VE HEARD OF YOU, MATE. YOU'RE WITH THE *X-MEN.*

YOU WERE THE PRIMARY TARGET, *MISS KARST.* EVERYONE ELSE WAS JUST COLLATERAL DAMAGE.

BUT *WHY?*

WHAT DOES IT MATTER? YOU BEAT UP THE GUARDS, BUT HOW'RE YOU GONNA GET US HOME?

ANYWHERE *I* CAN GO, MY *BAMFS* CAN FOLLOW.

THEY *TELEPORT* HERE, WE ALL TELEPORT *HOME.*

JUST TAKE ONE BY THE HAND-- AND DON'T WORRY, THEY'RE QUITE FRIENDLY.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THIS, WON'T HE TRY AGAIN?

THAT WOULD BE THE BIGGEST *MISTAKE* OF HIS MISBEGOTTEN LIFE.

I DO HOPE YOU'RE WATCHING, VOGE. BECAUSE IF I HAVE TO COME BACK--

--YOU'LL BE THE ONE TO REGRET IT.

DO YOUR WORST, WRETCH! I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU.

SOMEDAY, MUTANT, THERE WILL BE A *RECKONING.*

WITHDRAW YOUR PIRATES, KILLIAN. THE GIRL ISN'T WORTH THE TROUBLE.

MY *VENGEANCE* CAN WAIT FOR A BETTER DAY.

THIS ISN'T THE END, NOT BY A LONG SHOT.

BUT NOT EVERY BATTLE LEADS TO OUTRIGHT WAR.

WHAT MATTERS TONIGHT IS RETURNING THESE CAPTIVES SAFELY *HOME.*

PROFESSOR WAGNER, I'M SO *SORRY!*

THE *CRIMSON PIRATES,* THEY ALL JUST DISAPPEARED!

THEIR BOSS WAS LIKELY JUST TIDYING UP HIS MESS.

ZIGGY-- ARE YOU OKAY?

SMOOCH

I'M *FINE,* RICO--

--THANKS A WHOLE LOT TO *YOU!*

THIS ADVENTURE WAS *COOL,* RICO. LET'S DO IT AGAIN SOMETIME.

SHE'S *KIDDING,* RIGHT?

THIS IS A *JOKE!*

SHE'S *SMILING,* RICO, NOT LAUGHING.

TAKE THIS FOR WHAT IT IS-- AN OFFER OF *FRIENDSHIP*--AND BUILD FROM THERE.

WHO KNOWS WHERE IT'LL LEAD.

WOW!

YOU HAVE THE INSTINCTS OF A *HERO,* MY FRIEND.

BUT ABOVE ALL, THE SOUL OF A *GOOD MAN.*

NEXT: THE DEATH OF WOLVERINE!

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